HOT HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN THE CITY, PG 34

Don't Miss Tonight's Draw
LOTTO SUPER 7

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TORONTO • WEEKEND DECEMBER 19-21 2008 metronews.ca

Movies pg 38

Good actors bogged down in Seven Pounds

Majority wants to stay in black: Poll

DEFICIT Canadians are wary of federal plans to spend the country out of recession, a poll suggests.

More than half — 54 per cent — of respondents to a survey by The Canadian Press Harris-Decima said they wanted the government to spend within its means. Thirty-nine per cent said Ottawa should stimulate the economy by hiking spending on infrastructure and other projects even if it means going into deficit.

Lower-income earners and women — who normally support government intervention — were more likely than average to want the government to avoid a deficit. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Sports pg 28

Sundin signs with Canucks

Canada pg 10

Feds to run $30B deficit

Celebrity Buzz pg 56

Johnny hunts for a ring

Storm coming **Are you ready?**

PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A City of Toronto employee hoses down his plow on Bayview Avenue Thursday in preparation for upcoming storms. Environment Canada warns the city is set to be walloped by snow this weekend, starting with a big storm Friday. **Story, page 3.**

Maple Leaf settles listeria lawsuit

Company to pay $25M after deadly outbreak

Maple Leaf Foods have settled a class-action lawsuit with victims of last summer's listeria outbreak, committing to pay between $25 million and $27 million in compensation.

Under the agreement, victims who suffered from eating listeria-tainted cold cuts stand to receive potentially thousands of dollars from the company.

"Our goal throughout this legal process has been to negotiate a fair and early settlement so that we can obtain court approvals and promptly compensate families who were affected," company president Michael McCain said in a statement Thursday.

The settlement still requires court approval in Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

Members of the suit will receive widely varying compensation depending on the severity of their injuries. In the case of deaths, Maple Leaf will pay at least $120,000 where symptoms were consistent with listeriosis, plus funeral costs.

Tim Clark, whose mother, Frances, died Aug. 25 after testing positive for listeriosis, says the settlement is insulting to families who lost a loved one.

"I'm sure Mr. McCain has spent more than that on damage control with his ads on TV," he said.

Maple Leaf spokesperson Linda Kuhn said the entire payout will be covered by the company's liability insurers. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

By the numbers

- Those with illness lasting a day or two will be eligible for $750; two weeks to a month will be eligible for $8,000 plus loss of income.
- $120,000 will go to estates of those who died, $35,000 to their spouse, $30,000 to each of their children, and $20,000 to their parents.
- 20 deaths are officially attributed to the outbreak.
- Lawyer Tony Merchant said of 5,000 claimants, 29 families claim a loved one died as a result of the outbreak.

CSIS rapped for taping suspect in terror case

LAWYERS Canada's spy service has been listening to telephone calls between terrorism suspects and attorneys for more than a year and defence lawyers are demanding to know how the recordings were used.

A federal court justice revealed in a Toronto courtroom Thursday that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had monitored talks between refugee Mohamed Zeki Mahjoub, who is accused of being a high-ranking member of a radical Egyptian group with ties to al Qaeda, and his lawyers since he was released on bail in spring of 2007.

Mahjoub's lawyers called the practice a breach of the fundamental right of solicitor-client privilege.

"It's incredibly invasive," said lawyer Barb Jackman.

In court late Thursday CSIS lawyer Jim Mathieson said the monitoring would stop and any recordings would be erased.

CSIS was acting at the behest of the Canadian Border Services Agency, which is responsible for enforcing conditions of Mahjoub's bail, including having his communications intercepted by the CBSA.

However, Jackman's co-counsel, Marlys Edwardh, said they considered it implicit that calls to lawyers were off limits and she is concerned with what will become of all the recordings that were provided to CBSA by the spy service.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Man robbed of shopping bag, cash

A 21-year-old man was knocked unconscious and robbed Wednesday evening. A man hit the victim on the side of the head with an unknown object about 7 p.m., outside a home on Dalrymple Drive, near Jane Street When the victim came to, his shopping bag and cash were gone. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

U.S. educator rejects TDSB director job

Toronto's public school board is back to square one in its international search for a new director this week, after an award-winning U.S. educator declined a tentative offer. After a difficult, year-long search for someone to fill the top job, the board currently has no candidates, sources say. The board's search committee was hoping to lure Rudy Crew, an African-American named the 2008 national superintendent of the year in the U.S. for his work heading Miami-Dade public schools in Florida. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Monday's Metro

Going Green

Find out how you can save on your energy bills without being left in the cold.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Movies showtimes, trailers reviews and purchase tickets at **metronews.ca/movies**

Video Vancouver police go undercover as seniors to catch violent thieves at **metronews.ca/canada**

Analysis Politics 2008: From one 'dysfunctional' parliament to another at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 9 2 8; **Ontario Pick 4** : 1 3 4 5 **Encore:** 0462790; **Daily Keno:** 3, 6, 10, 22, 29, 30, 32, 33, 36, 42, 49, 52, 54, 58, 59, 61, 64, 66, 67, 69.; **Payday:** 11, 23, 41, 52

These results are not official.

News in brief

ROBBERY A female employee of a Rabba Fine Foods store was the victim of an armed robbery Wednesday night.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Be prepared' for snow

Weekend winter storm may keep travellers waiting

Pack your patience. That's Trish Krale's No. 1 piece of advice for anyone planning to travel this weekend, as winter storms add another complication to the holiday chaos.

"We all know it's a busy travel weekend," and it's likely there will be delays — even cancellations — despite everyone's best efforts, said Krale, spokesperson for the Greater Toronto Airport Authority, which overseas Pearson International Airport.

Today's storm, expected to hit early this morning and continue until evening, should drop about 15 cm of snow on Toronto. Mississauga, Oakville and Burlington could see as much as 25 cm, according to Environment Canada.

Sure, travellers can take some precautions to make the trip run more smoothly,

"You should treat going to the airport the same as you'd approach a camping trip."
Christina Friend

like checking their flight status before leaving the house and booking airport limo services ahead of time.

If anyone can plan for the unexpected, it's Christina Friend, communications co-ordinator for Scouts Canada — an organization known for its motto, "Be prepared."

"You should treat going to the airport the same as you'd approach a camping trip," said Friend, who applies the Scouts' wilderness skills to the sometimes rough-and-tumble world of holiday travel.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Flight schedule

- Although a severe snowstorm isn't expected to hit the city until today, bad weather is already causing delays for several hundred travellers across the country, including at Toronto's Pearson International Airport. On Wednesday night, Environment Canada issued weather warnings for Vancouver, Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland and Labrador. In anticipation of today's storm, Air Canada and WestJet offered passengers the chance to reschedule flights at no charge, but airline officials admitted few would be able to find alternate seats.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Study weighs in on multiple steroid doses

HEALTH Giving pregnant women at risk of preterm delivery multiple doses of steroids rather than a single injection does not improve the premature babies' survival rates, according to a new study.

The paper, published in the U.K. journal The Lancet today, found mothers who receive multiple courses of antenatal corticosteroids have an increased probability of giving birth to an infant who weighs less and is shorter in length. The authors recommend elimination of this common medical practice.

Long-term physical and developmental side effects of such outcomes on children are unknown and still being investigated, said Dr. Kellie Murphy, a high-risk obstetrician at Mount Sinai Hospital, who led the study.

Instead, the researchers say a single dose of the steroid is enough to decrease the mortality risk and respiratory problems often found in the premature infants.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STEVE RUSSEL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Consultant Bill Dainty dumps off excess water that was collected as part of a study to measure the chloride running into Sheridan Creek near the Clarkson GO station parking lots. GO is experimenting with a salt alternative in the hope of finding a less environmentally-damaging de-icer.

GO seeks de-icing alternatives

Luke Togo's photo collection is an environmentalist's manual on what-not-to-do when responding to an icy winter blast. He has photographs of rock salt spilled around storage bins and spread like frosting on a cake over GO platforms and parking lots.

Fortunately, these are sights GO hopes to soon eliminate by reducing its reliance on salt to melt surface ice, says Togo, GO's station services manager.

Estimates

- According to estimates, GO spreads about 2,000 tonnes of rock salt in winter.

The transit company has been seeking an alternative since about 1999, when Environment Canada deemed rock salt to be toxic to plants, fish, animals and waterways.

This year, GO is working with Credit Valley Conservation Authority and University of Waterloo to assess a new de-icing product billed as organic and less harmful to the environment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dog rescued from fire finds home

ANIMALS Harley is one lucky dog. Not only did he survive a raging inferno that killed scores of other pets two days ago, but he's just gone to a loving new home. The 15-month-old Shih Tzu was one of nine dogs rescued by firefighters before an early morning blaze gutted Durham Region Humane Society's animal shelter in Oshawa. The $250,000 fire is still under investigation by the Ontario Fire Marshal's office, but shelter manager Ruby Richards said preliminary reports indicate it started in the ceiling and may — in a sad irony for the cats — have been sparked by mice chewing through electrical wires. Close to 100 cats, three dogs and several rabbits and rodents perished in the blaze.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

FOUND Gabriel Owusu, 12, who went missing from his Mississauga home on the weekend returned home on his own accord Thursday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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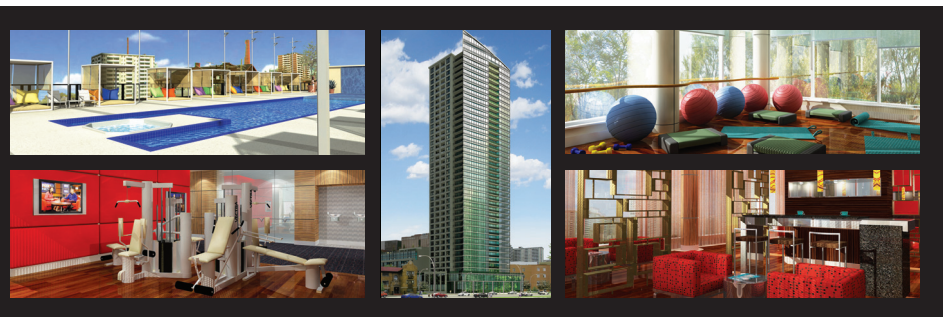

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Teen girls charged in stabbing

Two 15-year-old girls have been charged after another 15-year-old girl was stabbed Monday at Kennedy Subway station. The teens can't be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man gets life for Caribana slaying

Gang member shot victim during revelry

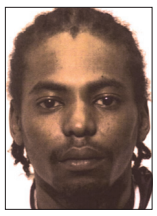
A judge has sentenced a drug-dealing gang member to life in prison with no hope of parole for 16 years for the "callous and outrageous" shooting of a rival during a crowded Caribana celebration.

Ajine Stewart fired two shots into Dundas Square, packed with hundreds of revellers and dozens of police officers, Justice David McCombs said yesterday.

"He killed an unarmed man and devastated the lives of his victim's family," the judge added. "It was only good fortune that no one else died that night."

It took a jury only two hours last October to convict Stewart, 27, of second-degree murder in Dwayne Taylor's death.

Security cameras at the Eaton Centre across the street captured the 4:30 a.m. shooting on July 31, 2005. The murder was less than two blocks from the crowded Yonge Street sidewalk where schoolgirl Jane Creba was shot five months later. Footage showed Stewart suddenly emerge from behind a concrete pillar. He fired once, stepped back, and fired again. Taylor was crouching only a metre or two away when he was hit in the heart.



Ajine Stewart

Outside court, prosecutor Paul McDermott said that Stewart testified in his own defence that he was a gun-toting drug dealer who felt he needed a loaded firearm to protect himself against other gang members who might be armed.

"He said he was prepared to use it, and he did."

Stewart testified that Taylor threatened him with death and pointed a gun at him. However, no weapon was found on Taylor's body.

The killer acknowledged that since age 19 he has been a member of the Crisis Crips crew.

"(Ajine Stewart) killed an unarmed man ... It was only good fortune that no one else died that night."
Justice David McCombs

"Mr. Stewart said that he lived in a world of fear – fear of assault or worse by rival gang members, rival drug dealers and customers and fear of arrest by police," the judge said.

Stewart came to Dundas Square from his Mississauga home that Saturday night to meet women and brought the loaded gun in case he "needed it," he testified.

Taylor was also a member of the Crips and had an extensive criminal lifestyle.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Unicyclist **Where there's a wheel**

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

James Kennedy crosses Mt. Pleasant Road on his unicycle yesterday afternoon on his way to do some Christmas shopping.

A Rocket ride to nowhere

TTC Frank Gullo spends a lot of time opening the door of his bus and telling curious and mildly annoyed people what he isn't — the Weston Road bus and the Jane Street bus.

Most people, disappointed, turn away. As he hisses to a halt on Jane Street at Trethewey Drive, he stems the awaiting crowd with five words.

"This one turns down here," Gullo says, pointing around the corner instead of straight up Jane Street.

One man, confused, blurts out: "What are you? A training bus?"

It's the same when he pulls up to a stop on Weston Road. Gullo pulls the 171 Mt. Dennis up to the curb and then immediately freezes a woman midstep with: "This is not a Weston Road bus."

With the exception of one "regular" and the odd straggler in the 171's bleak, industrial stomping ground, the only people who don't ask questions, and who actually board, are TTC drivers.

They use this 20-minute bus loop to get from their routes back to the Mt. Dennis garage. The union negotiated with management for the arrangement, says Brad Ross, a TTC spokesperson. All TTC workers ride free.

Some might raise eyebrows skyward about the arrangement, but the drivers argue the route is necessary.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

To garage

- The 171 Mt. Dennis started Nov. 23. Like the 99 Arrow Road, this route exists to ferry drivers from a faraway garage to a connecting route.

Second life term sought for convict

MURDER The Crown is calling for a life sentence for a man who went on a killing spree with his half-brother, knifing a bar owner one night and a partygoer the next. Abdi Omar Mohamed, 27, is already serving a life sentence with no hope of parole for 15 years after being convicted of second-degree murder in the knifing of a man at a party on Aug. 19, 2004. But prosecutor Allison MacPherson asked Ontario Superior Court Justice Anne Molloy for a second life sentence for him yesterday in the killing of bar owner Pattiyage Jayantha Peiris.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 31 | WEEKDAY SERVICE EXTENDED UNTIL LATER THAN USUAL.
Subway and most routes start at 6:00 a.m. Regular morning peak period service.
Reduced afternoon peak period service, operating from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.
Most routes with late evening service continue until 4:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve last train details:

1 **Yonge-University-Spadina Subway** leaves Union Station at 3:30 a.m. for Finch Station and 3:34 a.m. for Downsview Station.
2 **Bloor-Danforth Subway** leaves Bloor-Yonge Station at 3:37 a.m. for Kipling Station and at 3:37 a.m. for Kennedy Station.
3 **Scarborough RT** leaves Kennedy Station at 4:05 a.m. for McCowan Station.
4 **Sheppard Subway** leaves Sheppard-Yonge Station at 3:58 a.m. for Don Mills Station.

Thursday, January 1, 2009 | SUNDAY SERVICE.
Subway and most routes start at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, January 2 | WEEKDAY SERVICE.
Subway and most routes start at 6:00 a.m.

www.ttc.ca 416-393-INFO

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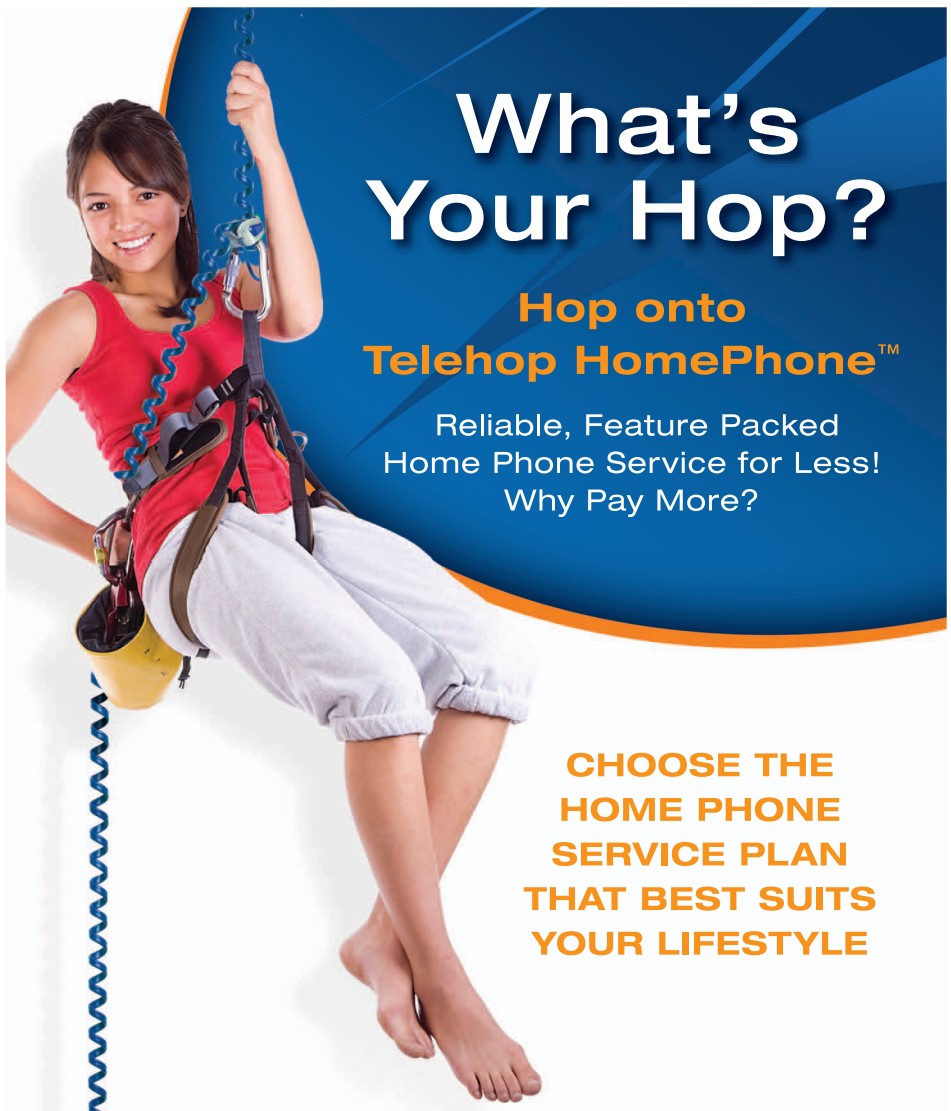

Two remanded in custody over teen's death
Two adults have been remanded in custody on charges of first-degree murder in the death of Mississauga teen Alexandra Firgan-Hewie. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City cops ink lucrative deal

Toronto's police budget is slated to hit a staggering $1 billion at the end of a lucrative three-year contract decided by an arbitrator and released yesterday.

The deal, inked earlier this week, hikes police salaries 10 per cent by 2010 and will make local cops the highest paid in the province — a demand the union has always insisted upon.

But this pay raise puts tremendous pressure on the service and its board, which must now find ways to afford it, officials said.

"A billion-dollar budget is enormous — it's a huge amount of money," Toronto Mayor David Miller said yesterday.

"The police services board will have to look at its expenditures, review its numbers."

The salary increase is equivalent to a 2 per cent tax hike, he said, and amounts to an additional $24 million per year.

Salaries

- By the time the contract expires, a first class constable will earn $81,249 — about $230 more than a first class constable from Peel Regional Police.

While both sides agree the new contract seems fair and that local officers are deserving of such an award, Toronto police Chief Bill Blair said "it is not possible to run the service with the new hike on the current budget."

Uploading certain costs to the province and the federal government have been identified as coin saving mechanisms, chair of the police services board said yesterday.

Alok Mukherjee said the service will benefit financially when the Ontario government picks up the $44-million per year tab for court security by 2012.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Listeria woes continue for Mariposa

MEAT Mississauga-based Mariposa Meats has been hit with yet another positive listeria test, its fourth since early November and its third since last week.

The most recent recall warning follows an investigation by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

On Wednesday, the CFIA advised the public not to eat Old Style brand smoked pork loin chops or thin-sliced chicken breast. The contaminated pork has an expiry date of Jan. 23. The affected chicken has a "best before" date of Jan. 16.

The warning came just four days after Mariposa issued a voluntary recall of Old Style brand pastrami.

In a statement yesterday, company president Michael Belli said: "Mariposa Meats is and has been committed to producing the safest of food products for over 35 years. Our actions to perform voluntary recalls are part of being a responsible Canadian manufacturer."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Hit-and-run victim dies of injuries

A man struck in a hit-and-run outside a Pickering nightclub last week died of his injuries Wednesday night. Hardat Dyall, 35, died in hospital after being hit Saturday in the parking lot of Tropix Restaurant and Lounge on Liverpool Road. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

An aerial view of the One Cole condominiums, which will also house a Sobeys, the Royal Bank of Canada and a Tim Hortons.

Crisis won't hit project?

Condo sales pay for Regent Park's affordable housing

The CEO of Toronto Community Housing says that although condominium sales play a key role in financing Regent Park's redevelopment, he doesn't believe a drop in the condo market will jeopardize the billion-dollar project.

Toronto Community Housing is using the proceeds from the sale of land and new market-priced condo units being built at Regent Park to pay for new subsidized and affordable rental units in the area.

During a presentation and tour of the public housing project yesterday to update the media on how the 12-year redevelopment is progressing, CEO Derek Ballantyne said despite reports predicting Toronto's condo boom heading to a bust, he's not worried that will hurt condo sales at Regent Park.

A 293-unit condominium project called One Cole estimated last year at about $70 million is currently under construction in Phase 1 of Regent Park's revitalization. Occupancy is set for late next year and sales offices are to open in the spring.

Another 147-unit condo building is slated for Oak and Sackville streets, with construction set to begin next year and occupancy the year after.

Plans are to have funds from the condo sales go toward financing of two new buildings near completion at Dundas Street East and Parliament — a 22-storey seniors' building and an eight-storey family building — both with mostly subsidized units.

Part of the financing plan also includes 375 new social housing units in the eastern part of the city on Carlton Street, Adelaide Street East, and Richmond Street East also set for 2009 occupancy.

Buildings at those locations will house some of the original rent-geared-to-income units from Regent Park. It's all part of the plan to break up the concentration of social housing that originally existed at Regent Park, replacing that with mixed-income housing.

All of Regent Park's 2,083 social housing units are being replaced, plus 700 new affordable housing units are being added in and around the housing project in the six-phase, 12-year-plan.

Ballantyne says he's optimistic the Phase 1 condos will sell.

He said they're designed to attract first-time buyers, and clients will be able to purchase the units in late spring, only four or five months away from their move-in dates.

"They don't have to face very long waits and delays and the uncertainty of the market place, which is one of the things preying on people," he said.

"The product is well-priced and well-placed in the market," he said adding that borrowing costs and mortgage rates have dropped favourably for first-time buyers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Timeline

- Some of the 400 households — 1,160 residents — uprooted and relocated when Phase 1 demolition began are to move into the new homes in the spring.
- But some of those who were moved out of Regent Park have chosen not to return.
- The next phase of demolition is to begin in 2010.

NEW TRIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR

STARTING MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009, THERE WILL BE CHANGES TO SOME GO TRAIN AND BUS SERVICES.

01 – LAKESHORE WEST
GO TRAIN & BUS SERVICES

A new weekday westbound train trip will depart Union Station at 3:15 p.m., run express to Clarkson arriving at 3:36, then serve Oakville at 3:44, Bronte at 3:50, Appleby at 3:56, and Burlington at 4:03 p.m.

A connecting bus trip will depart Burlington at 4:08 p.m., serve Aldershot at 4:18, Main and Longwood at 4:28, and Hamilton GO Centre at 4:38 p.m.

The weekday 7:58 a.m. eastbound train from Oakville will now originate at Aldershot departing at 7:32 a.m., then serve Burlington at 7:38, Appleby at 7:45, Bronte at 7:51, and run express from Oakville arriving at Union Station at 8:25 a.m. This train will now have 12 coaches to help meet increased passenger demand.

The weekday 3:54 p.m. eastbound train from Aldershot will now depart at 4:08 and arrive at Union Station at 5:12 p.m. Times will be 14 minutes later at all stops along the route and on connecting bus trips.

93 – DURHAM COLLEGE/UOIT
GO BUS SERVICE

A new weekday eastbound trip will depart Scarborough Town Centre at 9:40 a.m. and arrive at Durham College at 10:20 a.m.

09 – LAKESHORE EAST
GO TRAIN & BUS SERVICES

A new weekday eastbound train trip will depart Union Station at 5:10 p.m., run express to Pickering arriving at 5:35, then serve Ajax at 5:40, Whitby at 5:48 and Oshawa at 5:55 p.m. Connecting bus trips to Bowmanville and Newcastle are available.

The weekday 5:13 p.m. eastbound train from Union will now depart at 5:20 p.m. and times will be 7 minutes later at all stops along the route.

A new weekday eastbound bus trip will depart Oshawa GO Station at 6:19 p.m., make all regular stops, and arrive in Newcastle at 7:13 p.m.

20 – MILTON – BRONTE
GO BUS SERVICE

The weekday southbound trip that departs Milton GO Station at 3:30 p.m. will now depart at 3:45 to connect with the adjusted eastbound train departing Bronte at 4:25 p.m.

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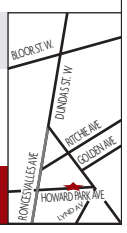

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No Charter for prisoners, says appeal court

Afghan prisoners captured by Canadian troops and handed over to local authorities can't rely on the Charter of Rights to protect them from torture, says the Federal Court of Appeal in a decision publicized Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

No conflict for Flaherty

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has been cleared of conflict of interest over a $122,000 contract awarded to a former campaign worker who wrote his budget speech in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Vancouver **Let it snow**

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A pedestrian walks past a snowman Thursday in downtown Vancouver. Unseasonably cold temperatures have gripped the Lower Mainland, turning normal rainfall into snow.

Deficit to top $30B: Harper

The Harper government plans to run a deficit totalling up to $30 billion next year in an effort to pump enough cash into the economy to lift Canada out of a painful recession, the Canadian Press has learned.

A senior government official said the deficit could total $20 billion to $30 billion for the 2009-10 fiscal year and that could continue.

The estimate blows away the projections contained in a Finance Department document released at the finance ministers meeting in Saskatchewan that suggested a $5-billion shortfall next year before any stimulus spending.

"We are prepared to run the deliberate, substantial, short-term budget deficits — plural — and the short-term budget deficit will be in the range of $20 billion-$30 billion," the official said. "We want ... to make sure that anybody who is out of work gets put back to work (and) contributes to the economy."

"We want ... to make sure that anybody who is out of work gets put back to work (and) contributes to the economy."
Senior government official

The official said the lion's share of the stimulus will go into public infrastructure spending for such things as roads and bridges and to retrain workers who have lost their jobs.

The Finance Department has projected a $5-billion shortfall next year, followed by another estimated $5.5 billion for 2010-11, prior to any new spending.

That suggests Ottawa is looking to spend $15 billion-$25 billion in stimulus next year, an indication the government believes the economy needs aggressive action.

The new spending could also serve to undermine political opposition for the Jan. 27 budget, particularly from new Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, who has said he will wait to see what the government does before deciding whether to vote non-confidence.

While the new deficit numbers appear shocking in the face of 12 consecutive years of surplus budgets, they pale compared to the more than $43-billion deficit eliminated by the Liberals in the 1990s.

They are also small potatoes to the estimated $1-trillion US deficit being considered by the United States. Even before the stimulus, Ottawa looked ready to run small deficits for at least the next four years, according to the department document.

While the department officially only projects two years out, applying the methodology used to the projections yields further shortfalls of $4 billion and $1 billion the following years.

And the document warns the economic situation has deteriorated even more since the numbers were tabulated earlier this month, meaning both revenues and the deficit picture could be worse.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Auto-parts companies take pounding, profit outlook hits a nine-year low

MONEY The deteriorating economy will hammer profits in the auto-parts industry here by 58 per cent, or almost $1 billion, this year and in 2009, according to a gloomy Conference Board of Canada report. In sharp contrast to a forecast last spring, the board said Thursday that profits for auto-parts companies will plunge 38 per cent this year, to $1.05 billion from $1.69 billion, and fall another 32 per cent to $700 million in 2009. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Drug makers say warning coming for cold medicine and young kids

HEALTH Drug manufacturers have pledged to have warning labels on all over-the-counter cough and cold products before next year's flu season.

The move comes after Health Canada made this country the first in the world to recommend that the products not be used on children younger than six.

Pediatricians applauded the federal move, saying there is evidence they can cause harm to young children and there is no indication they do any good for children in that age range.

When?

- Warning labels for all over-the-counter cough and cold products will be in place by autumn 2009, a spokesperson said.

"Since we identified that there were a significant number of reports of misuse, overdose and rare side-effects in the age groups two to six, Health Canada has decided that these products should be relabelled," said Dr. Marc Berthiaume, who is in charge of non-prescription medication at the agency.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

IMPAIRED DRIVING B.C. residents with a drunk driving record will have a harder time getting on the road thanks to an expanded provincial program that uses a special device to lock a car's ignition. The device requires drivers to provide a breath sample before the ignition can be activated. Until now, the device has been used at the discretion of the superintendent of motor vehicles and only about 300 drivers have been involved. The program will apply only to offences accumulated after Feb. 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RCMP busts Whitehorse cocaine operation

A three-week undercover operation by the Whitehorse RCMP drug section has resulted in six arrests and the seizure of cocaine worth more than $100,000. Police said yesterday Project Miner identified 10 dealers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Listeria questions still unanswered

SAFETY Thousands of pages of documents detailing the federal government's handling of this summer's listeria outbreak are being suppressed.

The Toronto Star and the CBC are seeking the records, which include e-mails sent between officials with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Maple Leaf Foods and the City of Toronto through an access to information request. The CFIA has imposed extensions of a year or more on top of the normal 30-day deadline for responding to such requests.

Citing the sheer volume of documents requested, the department says it is short-staffed and can't produce the information any faster. Normally, the media waits out the government on such requests, sometimes for months or years. But the Star and the CBC have decided to publicize the delays because they believe the information contained in the documents is of vital public importance.

Since August, the Star/CBC investigation has been probing the public health tragedy that has killed at least 20 people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. resident named governor of Kandahar

Afghan-Canadian academic from Coquitlam, B.C., to be sworn in on weekend

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Tooryalai Wesa, right, is shown in a 2004 handout photo during a meeting in Afghanistan with grape growers. An Afghan-Canadian academic who lives in Coquitlam, B.C., is poised to become the new governor of battle-scarred Kandahar province.

Tooryalai Wesa, 58, who fled his birthplace in 1991 before settling with his family in British Columbia, will be the newest governor of battle-racked Kandahar province, officials confirmed yesterday.

Wesa accepted Afghan President Hamid Karzai's offer for the top political posting in Kandahar during a lunchtime meeting yesterday, the president's half-brother told The Canadian Press.

Ahmed Wali Karzai, chair of Kandahar's provincial council, said Wesa is scheduled to arrive at the governor's palace today. Tomorrow, he will be sworn in as governor.

"I always wanted to be the bridge between two of my home countries, Afghanistan and Canada," Wesa said.

Wesa told CTV Newsnet his top priority will be security.

"Afghanistan, in general, and Kandahar, in particular — it's a tribal society, and we have to keep balance between all the different tribes," he said.

The governor of Kandahar is generally considered Canada's biggest ally in the volatile southern province where the bulk of Canada's troops, which currently number about 2,750, have been stationed for nearly three years.

Canadian soldiers are working alongside NATO and U.S.-led coalition forces in an effort to restore security in the region that is a hotbed for Taliban activity. Other governors with roots in the province, such as Gul Agha Sherzai, who served from 1992-94, eventually ran into tribal conflicts, said a Canadian Forces translator known only as Pasha.

"If he is from Kandahar, it might be difficult for him to govern because historically it didn't work. Now, we don't know in this particular case — time will tell, but I'm not optimistic." THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HEALTH Twenty-five years after the world's first successful lung transplant was performed in Toronto, a new report shows that the number of lung transplants in Canada has risen dramatically. Canada is doing 84 per cent more lung transplants than it was 10 years ago.

COURT The Ontario Judicial Council has dismissed a complaint against the judge who granted custody of seven-year-old Katelynn Sampson to the woman now charged with first-degree murder in her death. Katelynn was found dead in a Toronto apartment in August. Her guardian — whose criminal record includes convictions involving prostitution, drugs and violence — and her common-law partner have since been charged with first-degree murder.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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More gas sites in B.C. tampered with, police say
Several natural gas well sites in northeastern British Columbia have been targeted by vandals but RCMP in Fort St. John, B.C., aren't immediately linking the attacks to three earlier bombings of EnCana pipelines. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ADVANCING GENERICS

John Tory sticking it out at Conservative helm

John Tory will today announce he is remaining at the helm of the Progressive Conservatives despite missing his self-imposed deadline to find a seat in the legislature.

Tory, seatless since leading his party to defeat in the October 2007 provincial election, had hoped to have a plan in place by the end of this year.

But as he leaves tonight for a long-planned, two-week family reunion trip to Kenya, it became obvious the Dec. 31 target could not be met.

"John will run for election in a suitable seat and a suitable time," Conservative MPP Peter Shurman (Thornhill) said in an interview yesterday.

That suggests Tory may be prepared to wait as long as the October 2011 election before taking a seat in the Legislative Assembly.

Noting Tory's own New Year's Eve deadline was "artificial" and "ridiculous," Shurman said the official oppositions needs to focus more on keeping Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberals honest than on internal matters.

"My god, salvage some pride. It's an embarrassment."
Anonymous Tory dissident

"The province is in trouble, the economy is in trouble. This is not a time to mess around," he said, noting "polling we've done shows the public trusts John Tory."

The thought of Tory staying on without a seat does not leave some party activists pleased.

"He's got no seat, no prospects," said one Tory dissident, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "My god, salvage some pride. It's an embarrassment."

The activist said it will be tough for Tory to stand before the party's special general meeting in Niagara Falls in February — the one-year anniversary of his lukewarm endorsement at a similar convention in London.

RICK MADONIK/TTORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Conservative Leader John Tory

On that weekend, Tory at first said the 66.9 per cent support from party members was not enough to guarantee he should stay on — then returned to the podium four hours later to say it was enough. Tory was criticized for indecision. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charest cabinet eyes economic storm

POLITICS The new Quebec cabinet reflects continuity and stability as the province weathers the tough economic times gripping the world, Premier Jean Charest said yesterday.

"We have a very solid foundation within the cabinet," he said after announcing his 26-member team, which has many familiar faces in key portfolios.

"As I look ahead to the international financial markets, with the challenge we will have in dealing with public finances, there's a new balance in the responsibilities that allows us to have a strong approach in terms of the economy."

The premier told reporters at a news conference following the swearing-in ceremony for the cabinet's 13 men and 13 women that the economy is "the common thread."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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16 canada

Envoys missing in Niger worry U.S.

The U.S. State Department has expressed its "grave concern" about the disappearance of two Canadian diplomats in Niger.

UN special envoy Robert Fowler, his Canadian assistant Louis Guay and their driver have been missing since Sunday.

The state department said it offers "the Canadian and Niger governments and the United Nations secretary general its full support towards finding Mr. Fowler and his colleagues."

A rebel group in Niger posted a statement on its website yesterday, denying for a second time that it had anything to do with the kidnapping.

The group, Front des Forces de Redressement, claimed the kidnapping was the result of a security breach.

The group had originally claimed its members abducted the two diplomats later, but later reversed its position.

The group said it does not take hostages and expressed hope that Fowler and his associates are released as soon as possible.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spotting

• The group says authorities have reports of a car registered in neighbouring Togo that allegedly followed the diplomats' vehicle from Niger's capital of Niamey.

Six-year-old twins, two adults dead after house fire in Saskatchewan

TRAGEDY RCMP and fire investigators combed through the charred ice-covered ruins of a family home yesterday after a blaze that killed six-year-old twins, a 21-year-old woman and a man.

Another woman, 30, and believed to be the mother of the twins, was in critical condition in hospital after she was rescued from the blaze in Nipawin, Sask., which is located about 250 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

INQUEST The parents of seven boys killed in a highway accident in New Brunswick say the announcement of a coroner's inquest may help other families avoid a similar loss.

FIRED A 57-year-old snowplow operator in Montreal has been fired after being caught drinking a beer on the job. He was not drunk, reports said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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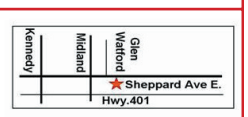

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Las Vegas gets record snowfall as pre-winter storm lashes area

A rare pre-winter storm has brought Las Vegas its heaviest snowfall in nearly three decades, closing the airport and freeways. The National Weather Service measured nine centimetres of snow overnight at Las Vegas' McCarran International Airport. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

FBI agents billed $45,000 in overtime

A new Justice Department report shows that FBI agents each billed an average of $45,000 US in overtime during three-month tours in Iraq and were sometimes paid for watching movies, exercising and going to parties. The investigation released yesterday by the department's inspector general found that agents claimed at least eight hours of overtime a day, every day, for the 90 days they were stationed in Iraq.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conviction in Rwanda genocide

A former Rwandan army colonel behind the 1994 slaughter of more than 500,000 people was convicted of genocide yesterday and sentenced to life in prison, the most significant verdict of a United Nations tribunal set up to bring the killers to justice.

Theoneste Bagosora was found guilty of crimes against humanity, and the court said he used his position as director of Rwanda's Ministry of Defence to direct Hutu soldiers to kill Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

His lawyer, Raphael Constant, has said he will appeal the verdict.

The court said that Bagosora, who had authority over the Rwandan military, was responsible for the deaths of former Rwandan prime minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana and 10 Belgian peacekeepers who tried to protect her as she was killed at the outset of the genocide.

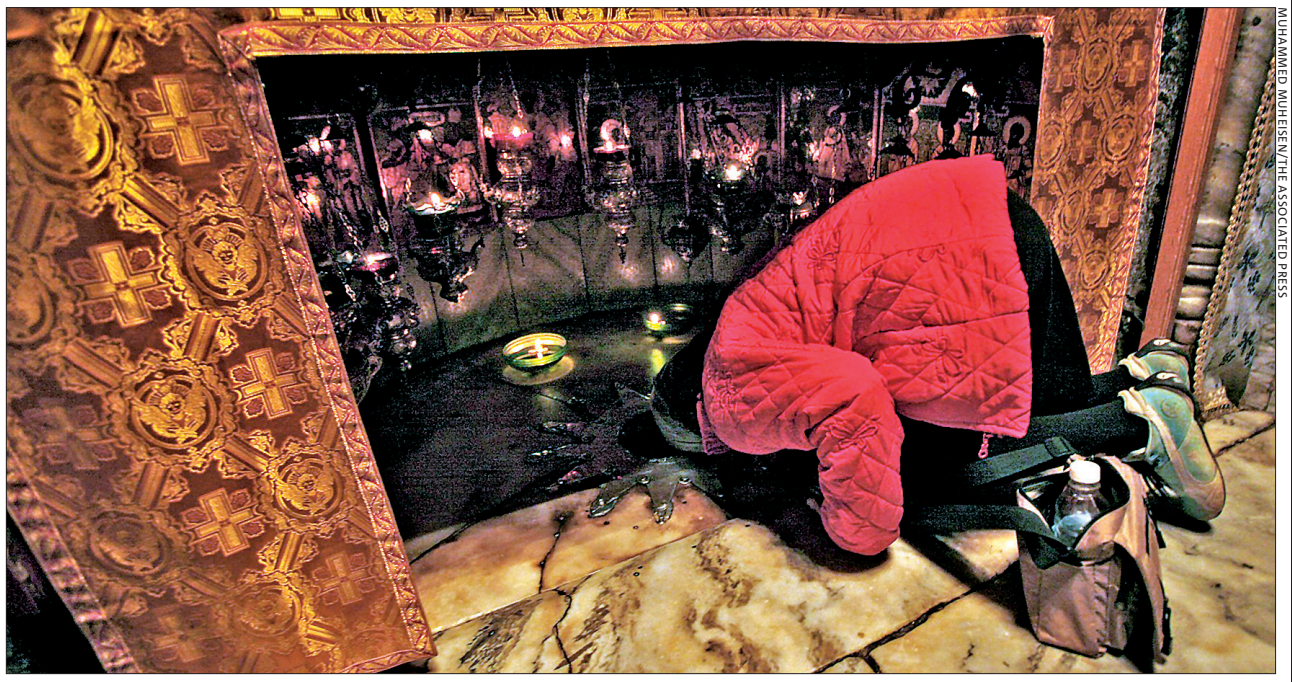
Bagosora, 67, said nothing as the verdict was delivered, and there was complete silence from the scores of people who had packed into the aisles of the tiny courtroom to hear the judgment.

His conviction was welcomed by genocide survivors, who still live uneasily among perpetrators in Rwanda nearly 15 years later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sentencing

- Some 63,000 people are suspected of taking part in the genocide. Many of them have been sentenced in community-based courts, where they were encouraged to confess and seek forgiveness to receive lighter sentences.



MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Christian worshipper prays in the Grotto at the Church of Nativity, believed to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ, in the West Bank town of Bethlehem yesterday.

Christmas looks fruitful again for Bethlehem

WEST BANK After eight bleak years, Jesus's birthplace finally has a Christmas season to cheer about.

Hotels are booked solid through January, Manger Square is bustling with tourists, and Israeli and Palestinian forces are working to make things go smoothly.

Bethlehem's economic fortunes are closely tied to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Tourism blossomed in the 1990s, when peace hopes were alive, but was crushed by the outbreak of fighting in 2000. Christmas after Christmas, tourists were scared off by Palestinian violence and Israeli travel restrictions.

With calm gradually returning to the West Bank, Bethlehem has again become a magnet for Christmas pilgrims.

Bethlehem Mayor Victor Batarseh said he expects 30,000 visitors on Christmas Eve alone, compared with 22,000 last year, with about 5,000 more expected during Orthodox rites in January. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi shoe tosser writes letter asking for pardon

CUSTODY The journalist jailed for throwing his shoes at U.S. President George W. Bush has asked for a pardon for what he described as "an ugly act," a spokesman for Iraq's prime minister said yesterday.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi, a correspondent for an Iraqi-owned television station based in Cairo, Egypt, could face two years imprisonment for insulting a foreign leader. He remained in custody last night.

"I am suspicious that my brother wrote that letter to (Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri) al-Maliki because I know my brother very well."
Dhargam al-Zeidi

"It is too late to reverse the big and ugly act that I perpetrated," al-Zeidi wrote in a letter delivered to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, according to the prime minister's spokesperson.

However, the journalist's brother, Dhargham al-Zeidi, said he was skeptical that his brother would write such a letter.

"I am suspicious that my brother wrote that letter to al-Maliki because I know my brother very well," he said.

Iraq's president, Jalal Talabani, can issue a pardon if recommended by the prime minister, except for certain offences including international crimes, according to Iraq's constitution.

Al-Maliki was at a Sunday news conference when he threw his shoes and shouted at Bush in Arabic, "This is your farewell kiss, you dog! This is from the widows, the orphans and those who were killed in Iraq."

Thousands in Iraq have protested al-Zeidi's arrest, and his actions have been heralded across the Arab world. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top U.S. general drafting plan for Iraq withdrawal

MILITARY The top U.S. general in Iraq has made initial recommendations about how to begin withdrawing the nearly 150,000 American forces there.

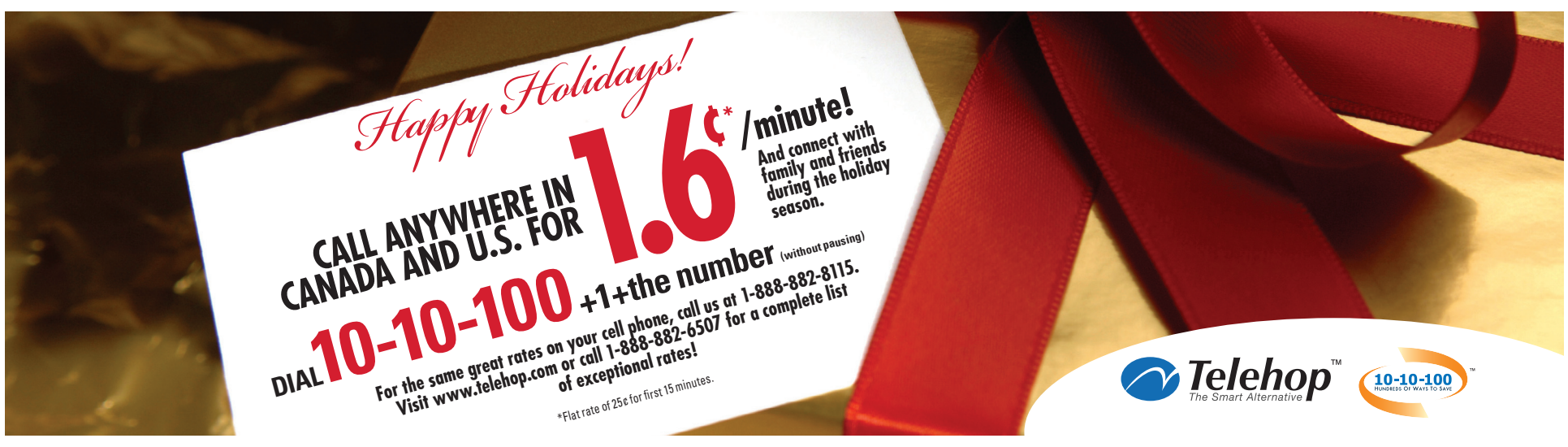
Raymond Odierno has told senior Pentagon leaders how he thinks the U.S. should comply with terms of the security agreement recently signed by the U.S. and Iraq.

The agreement calls for American fighting forces to be out of Iraq by 2012.

Odierno foresees a gradual withdrawal over that three-year period.

A senior military official says Gen. David Petraeus, who has overall responsibility for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, helped lay out the plan late last week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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20 world

Two trillion tons of Arctic ice melted

More than 2 trillion tons of land ice in Greenland, Antarctica and Alaska have melted since 2003, according to new NASA data. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama picks regulators

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama yesterday named three veteran regulators to round out his economic team and vowed to revamp regulatory rules to prevent a repeat of the financial and economic debacles the country is suffering through.

His announcement came as he lays the groundwork for a giant economic stimulus package, possibly $850 billion US over two years, aimed at reviving the flagging economy. It would rival drastic government actions taken to fight the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Obama blamed regulators for the financial debacle, saying they "dropped the ball." Regulators, he said, "have been asleep at the switch."

American people, watching their investments tank, are frustrated that "there's not a lot of adult supervision out there," Obama added.

At a Chicago news conference, Obama named Mary Schapiro to chair the Securities and Exchange Commission, Gary Gensler to head the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Daniel Tarullo to fill an empty Federal Reserve seat. All three will need to be confirmed by the Senate next year.

Separately yesterday, a labour official said Obama will nominate a Hispanic congresswoman, Hilda Solis, as labour secretary.

Obama also intends to name Ron Kirk, who became the first black mayor of Dallas, as the United States' trade representative, a Democrat official said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Culture of greed

- In announcing the appointments, Obama mentioned disgraced Wall Street money manager Bernard Madoff, saying his new team will help put in place new rules that will help "crack down on the culture of greed and scheming."

Bush mulling managed auto bankruptcy

WASHINGTON The White House says a managed bankruptcy for automakers is one option being considered to help save the troubled industry. White House press secretary Dana Perino told reporters yesterday that "we're going to do something."

The Bush administration wants to avoid what it calls a "disorderly collapse" of car companies that would result in devastating job losses and sweeping economic problems.

Perino says the White House is very close to a decision, but she did not put a timetable on when an announcement would be made, or even whether it would come this week.

Setting up a managed bankruptcy would be complicated, involving talks with automakers, unions and other stakeholders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Iraq still the deadliest place for journalists, says watchdog
The Committee to Protect Journalists said 11 journalists died in Iraq in 2008, down from 31 in 2007, but still higher than anywhere else. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fresh turmoil in Greece

Riot police clashed with rock-throwing demonstrators in central Athens yesterday, sending Christmas shoppers and people in cafes running for cover. Frightened parents scooped up their children from a Christmas carousel in the city's main square and fled.

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riot police advance yesterday as flames engulf a car that was set ablaze by rioting youths during clashes in Athens.

The protesters broke away from a peaceful rally and hurled rocks and firebombs at police and buildings near parliament, overturned a car and set fire to trash bins. They also splashed police with red paint.

Police responded with tear gas and flash grenades.

Firefighters and police also rushed to stop protesters from burning down the city's main Christmas tree, which was just replaced earlier this week after the first was torched in riots.

The clashes were the latest outbreak of violence after the police's fatal shooting of a teenager on Dec. 6.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clinton reveals major donors to foundation

CHARITY Former U.S. president Bill Clinton laid out a list of big-ticket donors to his foundation yesterday that is heavy with foreign governments and business interests sure to have a stake in the policies that Hillary Clinton carries out as secretary of state.

Saudi Arabia, Norway, Italy and other foreign governments gave at least $46 million US, while corporate donors included the Blackwater security firm that protects U.S. diplomats in Iraq.

The contributions went to the William J. Clinton Foundation, a non-profit created by the former president to finance his library in Little Rock, Ark., and charitable efforts to reduce poverty and treat AIDS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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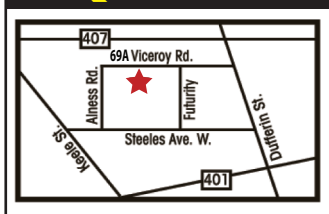

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Raul Castro offers to exchange dissidents for jailed Cubans
Cuban President Raul Castro has offered to exchange political dissidents in his country for five Cubans jailed in the U.S. for espionage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madoff monitored

Bernard Madoff spent his first day under electronic monitoring yesterday as U.S. president-elect Barack Obama said the scandal brought on by the disgraced investor "has reminded us yet again of how badly reform is needed."

The effects of the $50-billion US fraud has spread around the globe, and a Michigan-based foundation that provides food in urban areas is among the latest to say it is going out of business because of the scandal.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has come under fire for failing to detect Madoff's alleged deception despite repeated warnings, especially from a Massachusetts investor who has been sounding the alarm for the past decade.

He told a colleague in the late 1990s when he first noticed something was amiss, "This has to be a Ponzi scheme," according to a report in the Wall Street Journal.

Madoff had his bail conditions modified Wednesday. He must be at the Upper East Side residence from 7 p.m to 9 a.m. and wear an ankle bracelet to monitor his movements.

His wife has been ordered to surrender her passport.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inquiry

- The chairman of the House capital markets subcommittee has announced an inquiry that will begin early next month into what may be the biggest Ponzi scheme ever and how the government failed to detect it.

Peru **Seized cocaine to be burned**

KAREL NAVARRO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peru's Interior Minister Remigio Hernani holds his nose yesterday due to the smell as he walks by bags of cocaine to be burned at a police base in Lima. Police say they destroyed more than 4,000 kilograms of drugs seized in 2008, including cocaine, marijuana and heroin.

Zimbabwe cholera death toll tops 1,100

DISEASE The cholera death toll in Zimbabwe has risen above 1,100, the United Nations said yesterday, as one expert warned that the country is ill-prepared to deal with outbreaks of other diseases.

A total of 1,111 cholera deaths were recorded by Wednesday, an increase of 133 in two days, said the UN humanitarian office.

The latest figures, which are compiled by the World Health Organization, show the number of cases has risen to 20,581 since the start of the cholera outbreak in August.

The WHO says cholera is spreading because of poor sanitation systems, rampant inflation that has hit doctors and nurses, and a lack of clean drinking water. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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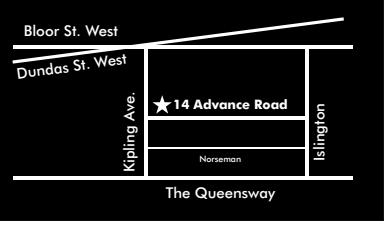

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Comment & Views

Comment

Ripping the suburbs

OmniVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Suburbia has been, for three generations at least, the social equivalent of pork rinds or supermarket tabloids — something no one has a good word for, though it continues to exist, even thrive, in spite of blanket condemnation by those who "know better."

Moviegoers are getting a chance to revisit this spacious, tree-lined hell this Christmas with the release of Revolutionary Road, the Oscar favourite that reunites Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio, and allows director Sam Mendes to take another swing at the same target he savaged almost a decade ago with American Beauty.

Based on Richard Yates' 1961 novel, it's the story of the Wheelers, Frank and April, who have somehow managed to take up residence in that epicentre of middle-class despair — the post-war, northeastern commuter suburb — while presuming themselves much better than the "hopeless emptiness" they see everywhere. Or not — there wouldn't be much of a story if they didn't realize, with a shock, that they've become trapped in that most awful of mid-century nightmares (in mid-century novels, at least): Material comfort and routine.

Yates' book was one of the first to define the conventional wisdom on suburbs, a viewpoint voiced almost entirely by people who don't live there, and echoed vociferously by the young people who claim to have "escaped" them — an image that requires us to equate freeways with barbed-wire fences, and malls with guard towers.

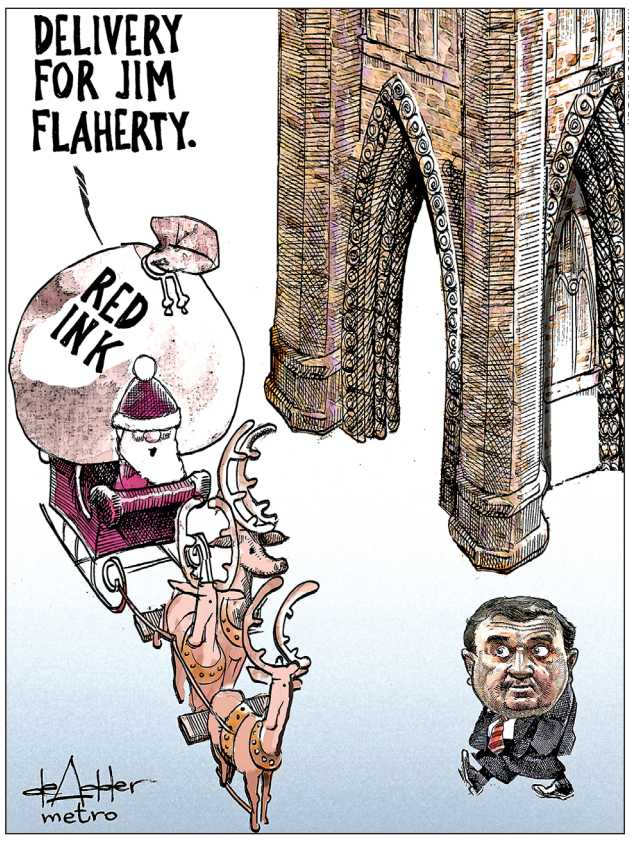
"In the conventional wisdom, the greatest threat posed by suburbs is that they have the temerity to grow, or 'sprawl.'"

In the conventional wisdom, the greatest threat posed by suburbs is that they have the temerity to grow, or "sprawl," in urban studies jargon, which sums up the paradox of the suburban problem: That people actually want to live in these terrible places, no matter how many novels, movies, magazine articles or learned studies condemn them.

It requires that we look at suburbs as places that never change, or that their essence is frozen in the mid-century form described by Yates and others — an eternal Levittown, where the saplings never turn into trees, and no one ever puts a skate ramp in the pool or builds a grow-op in the rec room. It's basically false — the Toronto neighbourhood where I live now is considered urban, but it was a garden suburb when it was developed a century ago, and many of the larger suburbs are transforming themselves into cities, accidentally or on purpose, as population density fulfils its destiny and becomes dense.

In his zeal to reprise his suburb-bashing, Mendes was probably blind to how his tragedy would actually play. Most people will probably watch Revolutionary Road and envy Frank and April's cute home with its very collectible period furnishings and the woods across the road and wonder if they could move in tomorrow, hopeless emptiness be damned.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

How can we turn this public mood around?

UrbanCompass

John Sewell

I'm sure it's not just me imagining things.

When I get on a subway car, I'm immediately facing a wall of silence. People aren't being quiet because I've stepped on. No one cares about my little entrance.

The silence is something larger. It's in the air.

The usual chatter and the odd giggle you expect on the subway isn't there. People are looking down at the floor or off into space. There's silence. It's not the iPods, which are whipped off in a second if there's anything happening.

It's like everyone has sunk into a depression all at once. The economy has thrown us into a tailspin since we're in a recession and many think it soon will turn into a depression. Jobs are disappearing at every turn. To get ready for this coming onslaught, people seem to have agreed to act the part.

Why does public mood in big cities spread so quickly and completely through public places? If there's a big sports victory, like winning the Stanley Cup, the public space is full of energy and excitement, and it's hard to find anyone who is not enthused and lively. It's the same if there's a big storm — you can feel the buzz on the subway.

And so the coming big downturn in the economy seems to have a strong influence on how people express themselves in public places. People act like they're depressed. They don't communicate.

The reaction is a bit dumb because more than 90 per cent of us are still working, and few of us are threatened with losing our jobs. But maybe it's the uncertainty of the future. Maybe we think we are supposed to feel this way to show we are social beings. This transmission of a shared sense of feeling and sentiment is one thing about cities that I do not understand.

We're not all that far from Christmas and New Year's Eve and those are pretty cheery events. You'd think those good feelings might spill over to the subway. Apparently not.

How can we turn this public mood around? A little laughter. Here's where city council comes in to perform a last useful function for 2008.

Dress the mayor and councillors as elves with bells, giving out candy canes on subway platforms. Wouldn't that lighten the economic load pressing down on all of us? Doesn't that make you smile?

John Sewell is a former mayor of Toronto.

Letters

Considerate TTC bus driver made woman's day

I would like to show my appreciation to the driver of the 88 bus to St. Clair station that arrived at the 35 Thorncliffe Park Dr. stop at approximately 7:45 a.m. on Dec. 17.

He saw a pregnant me running madly over the snow to catch it, drove slowly and allowed me to get on, otherwise I would have missed it and been late for work. Throughout the ride he did the same for other passengers, too.

I feel people like this driver should be appreciated because they make big differences to our day by being considerate.

AYESHA PERVEZ, TORONTO

Legal profession is based on truth and justice

Re: Fake degree costs woman Bay St. job (Dec. 17)

Are we supposed to feel badly for a cheater? Is it wrong that she got caught?

She's not the victim here and I don't feel sorry for her. The victims are all those other applicants that had honest grades and real degrees who did not get accepted to law school because Ms. Frederick lied her way into law school.

The legal profession is one based on truth and justice. There's no room for those who don't take such paramount principles seriously.

ANTONELLA ALBANO, TORONTO

Colonoscopy remains the gold standard test

Re: Colon cancer test less effective on right side, Toronto researchers say (Dec. 16)

It was fascinating to see the potential differences in sensitivity of flexible colonoscopy to colon cancer detection in the study reported on Dec. 16. It appears that right-sided tumours may be biologically different than left-sided tumours.

In our Provis Endoscopy Services (PES) network of colonoscopy clinics, we have received many calls from patients asking about whether they should have a colonoscopy as had been previously scheduled.

While the benefit of this screening procedure may actually be somewhat less than originally thought, colonoscopy still remains the gold standard test.

DR. PETER ANGLIN, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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GM denies new Chrysler merger talks

General Motors says a report that it and Chrysler have restarted talks to combine the two ailing automakers is untrue. Cerberus Capital Management, the majority owner of Chrysler, had signalled it is willing to part with some of its stake. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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'Boxing Day' sales reflect slowdown

As the economic news worsens, Canadian retailers are pushing hard to convince consumers they can get their best deals now instead of waiting until after Christmas.

Several national retailers, including Danier and Sears, are using "Boxing Day" in their advertising to draw attention to their pre-Christmas deals.

Even luxury chains, like Birks, have resorted to "Buy one, get one 50 per cent off," a strategy normally associated with mid-market clothing retailers.

"I think it's the deepest discounts that we've seen ever at this time of year," said Wendy Evans, a principal with Evans & Company, a Toronto consulting firm. Retailers "are looking at any opportunities they can to lure consumers into the stores before Christmas."

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A shopper rushes to complete her gift buying at Yonge and Dundas streets yesterday.

There are growing signs retail sales have been slowing as the economic news worsened. In October, retail sales fell 0.9 per cent from the previous month, Statistics Canada reported yesterday. Most of that was due to declining prices, especially for gasoline.

A survey by the Retail Council showed sales in November were mixed, while the first few days of December were noticeably slower. And a survey conducted for Scotiabank in mid-November found Canadians planned to spend just $790 on average, or 13 per cent less than last year, on holiday gifts, entertainment and travel.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RIM gives investors holiday cheer

REWARDS After issuing a rare profit warning earlier this month, BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion gave investors a thimble of Christmas cheer yesterday by reporting a "best-ever start to the holiday buying season" and forecasting a better-than-expected fiscal fourth quarter.

Despite a weakening U.S. economy, Waterloo-based RIM said it is nevertheless beginning to reap the rewards of a host of new smartphone devices it launched over the past few months, including a touchscreen BlackBerry called the Storm that competes head-to-head with Apple Inc.'s popular iPhone.

Jim Balsillie, the company's co-CEO, told analysts yesterday that "over half" of the 2.6 million new subscribers added in the quarter bought RIM's newer products, although the older BlackBerry Curve remains the company's biggest seller.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

3D Instructor Inspires

Lee Murray has joined Herzing College Toronto as the main 3D Animation Instructor. During his 3D career he has worked on Animated Television shows, Game Cut scenes, Advertisements for Television and Animated Feature films. His work includes Animation credits for a Television show created at C.O.R.E Animation called 'Urban Vermin'. Lee worked as a Motion Capture Actor and Animator for 'The Darkness' video game and 'Justice Heroes' video game. "The various areas you can specialize within 3D is amazing, everything from a Creature Animator to a Set Modeler", says Lee.

Possessing advanced skills in many 3D software programs Lee has the know how to create and manipulate the art required for various 3D projects. His area of expertise is Character Animation.

Since coming on board at Herzing, Lee has inspired the 3D students. His extensive practical experience, his caring teaching style and many years of instructing experience makes him a very popular 3D Animation instructor.

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In brief

INSIDER The U.S. government has charged a Lehman Brothers employee with insider trading in a scheme that earned $4.8 million US in profits. Prosecutors say Matthew Devlin got tips about upcoming mergers from his wife, who worked for an international public relations firm involved in the deals.

JOB CUTS Sirius XM Radio said it will have trimmed 22 per cent of its workforce by year-end as the satellite radio provider moves to slash costs amid slumping car sales.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TSX back up after market shutdown

FIRST The Toronto stock market was back in business yesterday after technical problems forced it to shut down for a day. It was the first time the Toronto Stock Exchange has been shut down for a whole day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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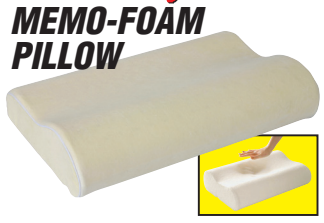

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Burke hurt by nonvite

Brian Burke told a Vancouver newspaper yesterday that he was upset he was not invited to Trevor Linden's jersey retirement ceremony Wednesday. Burke was Canucks assistant GM when Linden was drafted in 1988, and was GM while Linden played there for several seasons. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Whitt, Morneau in for WBC

Ernie Whitt, left, will manage Canada's team at next year's World Baseball Classic while star Minnesota Twins first baseman Justin Morneau has been named the squad's first player. The March 5-23 World Baseball Classic will be played in several cities around the world, including Toronto. Canada opens play March 7 against the U.S. at Rogers Centre. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Shot on goal kills Argentine pigeon

SOCCER An attempted shot on goal killed a pigeon during an Argentine soccer title match Wednesday. A soccer player in Buenos Aires made a powerful kick that went toward a group of pigeons looking for seeds in the grass. An explosion of feathers followed and the pigeons flew away — except one. Several players on the San Lorenzo team surrounded the wounded bird as it tried to fly away but then collapsed. Saying "poor pigeon," San Lorenzo defender Gaston Aguirre called the kick "unfortunate."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Second feels pretty good to Heil

Olympic champion Jennifer Heil captured a silver medal in her return to the World Cup freestyle skiing circuit yesterday while fellow Canadian Pierre-Alexandre Rousseau kicked off his season with a gold.

Heil was second to Hannah Kearney of the U.S., in the women's dual moguls while Rousseau defeated teammate Alexandre Bilodeau in the men's final giving Canada three medals in the freestyle skiing season-opening event.

Heil, a native of Spruce Grove, Alta., sat out all of last season to heal her knees and work on improving technical aspects of her skiing.

PHOTO COURTESY JENNIFER HEIL

Jennifer Heil returned from a season-long hiatus to capture the silver in her return to the World Cup freestyle circuit.

"Getting back in that starting gate I realized how much I missed the thrill of competition," said Heil, a four-time overall World Cup champion and gold medallist at the 2006 Turin Olympics.

"There's so much more I know I can do but today was a chance to show that I was back and contending."

Heil finished fourth in qualifying and posted victories in her quarter-final and semifinal.

Audrey Robichaud of Quebec City was ninth, Stephanie St-Pierre of Victoriaville, Que., 12th, Maxime Dufour-Lapointe of Montreal 13th, Kristi Richards of Summerland, B.C., 16th and Chloe Dufour-Lapointe of Montreal 21st.

In the men's final, Rousseau, from Drummondville, Que., and Bilodeau were almost mirror images from start to finish.

The race was Bilodeau's first major test after suffering a broken foot less than two months ago and aced his first major test yesterday.

The World Cup aerials season gets underway today in China.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs **Brawling in Boston**

AP PHOTO/CHARLES KRUPA

Maple Leafs centre John Mitchell, left, fights with Bruins defenceman Mark Stuart during the second period last night. For a complete game recap, visit www.metronews.ca/sports.

Sundin chooses Vancouver

Mats Sundin has chosen the West Coast over the Big Apple.

The free-agent centre signed with the Canucks on Thursday, ending months of speculation about where he would end up — or if he would even return to the NHL.

Sundin had considered retirement following the end of last season, but a number of teams still expressed interest in the 37-year-old's services. He had narrowed down his choices in recent weeks to the Canucks and New York Rangers.

He said Vancouver was the best move for him.

"I am truly excited to be joining the Canucks," Sundin said in a statement.

"Once I made the decision to return to play a few weeks ago, the Vancouver opportunity was simply the best overall fit.

"I want to thank (Canucks general manager) Mike Gillis and the entire Canucks organization for their professionalism throughout this entire process."

Terms of the deal were not immediately available but Sundin's agent J.P. Barry told Rogers Sportsnet that it was a one-year deal. In the summer, the Canucks had offered the former Toronto Maple Leafs captain $10 million US a year, which when prorated for the season, would be around $5 million.

"We are very excited to have Mats join the Vancouver Canucks," Gillis said in a statement.

"Playing previously in two Canadian markets and consistently being among team and league leaders in scoring, Mats has proven that he can excel under pressure."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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*Awarded by North American International Auto shows. 1. Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid named 2008 Green Car of the Year by Green Car Journal editors. **2008 Best New Small Car awarded to Saturn Astra. 2009 Best New Small Car over $18,000 awarded to Pontiac Vibe. †Based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada Test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary.

Boozer says he'll opt out

Utah Jazz forward/centre Boozer said Wednesday that he will opt out of his contract at the end of the season, forgoing a guaranteed $12.66 million to become an unrestricted free agent. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jawai cleared to practise as Raptors hit road

There were nights when sleep wouldn't come to Nathan Jawai, nights when he would toss and turn and worry about his future and his health.

That's what happens when a seemingly healthy 22-year-old is told there are issues with his heart, issues big enough that he couldn't do the one thing he loves most, issues serious enough that he had to halt all physical activity.

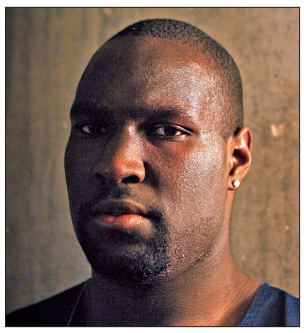
But as he stood next to the doorway of the Air Canada Centre practice gym yesterday, perspiration dripping off him after a nice time on the treadmill and even greater time on the basketball court, those sleepless nights were the furthest thing from his mind.

"No stress, no sleepless nights any more," the Raptors rookie said.

Jawai, a 6-foot-10, 280-pound Australian taken 41st overall in last June's NBA draft, has been idle for almost three months now. Doctors found something disturbing with his heart during pre-season testing and shut him down. He's had test after test since that day, and also a period of extended inactivity that finally ended Tuesday when cardiologists cleared him to play. Those weeks and weeks of waiting were the most difficult of his young life, a situation exacerbated by the fact he was half a world away from his family.

"It was real hard," he said. "The support's back home. But I got a lot of support, a lot of phone calls from my mom and dad, telling me to put my head up, that was really helpful during the three months I was out."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Nathan Jawai is the first aboriginal Australian player in NBA history.

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Radio: FAN 590

Guillen speaks on baseball, economy, Obama and Chavez

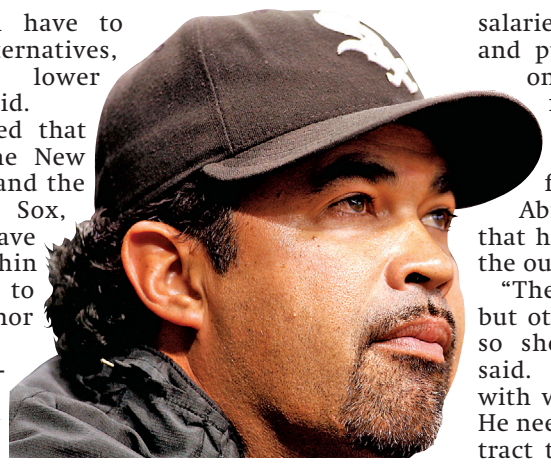
Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen is certain the world financial crisis will have an impact on baseball, including the way clubs are put together and play the game.

"The teams will have to be made up of a mix of prospective young players and veterans," said Guillen, who led the White Sox to the 2005 World Series championship. "One must trust in the work that the minor leagues are doing.

"Teams will have to look for alternatives, work with lower salaries," he said.

Guillen added that apart from the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox, teams will have to look within themselves or to the minor leagues.

Guillen forecast that teams will rely less on high-salaried home run hitters and put more emphasis on pitching and defence.



Asked about his interest in signing free agent Bobby Abreu, Guillen said that he had spoken with the outfielder.

"The interest exists, but other teams have also shown interest," he said. "Bob will decide with whom he will play. He needs to choose a contract that allows him to play many years in the major leagues."

"I'm not asking them to be great friends, but at least that they shake hands."
Ozzie Guillen on Barack Obama and Hugo Chavez

Guillen also touched on relations between his homeland and the U.S., saying he hopes Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and U.S. president-elect Barack Obama would strengthen ties.

"I'm not asking them to be great friends, but at least that they shake hands," he said.

Relations between the two countries have soured under President George W. Bush. Chavez has expressed hope that ties may improve under Obama.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mississippi basketball coach arrested
Cincinnati police arrested Mississippi men's basketball coach Andy Kennedy early yesterday after a cab driver said the coach punched him while calling him "bin Laden" and other racial insults. Kennedy was charged with a first-degree misdemeanour count of assault. METRO NEWS SERVICES

CC and A.J. introduced to NYC

Most teams triumphantly unveil a new ace. The New York Yankees presented a pair.

The sign board outside old Yankee Stadium beamed with an unusual message yesterday for a ballpark that already has seen its final game: "LET'S PLAY TWO," read the top line.

"CC & AJ 1 PM TODAY," said the lower. For $243.5 million US, a lot in most places but a trifle in a city where a financier is accused of swindling billions, the Yankees signed two pitchers they hope will restore the franchise's glory when it moves across the street to the new $1.3-billion Yankee Stadium next year.

There was a Christmas tree on the mound of the old ballpark, Yogi Berra was walking around and down in the cramped Stadium Club, 11 people were seated on chairs beside the podium. Manager Joe Girardi's nine-year-old daughter, Serena, presented roses to the wives of CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett.

"We learned last year that injuries can happen across the board," Yankees co-chairman Hal Steinbrenner said.

New York has used 51 starting pitchers since its last World Series title in 2000, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, tied for sixth in the majors and third in the AL.

"You can't stop swinging for the fences," Cashman said, proudly wearing a World Series ring. "We've been here. We've done this before. How many times, right?" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A.J. Burnett, left, and CC Sabathia share a laugh yesterday after they were introduced to the media in New York.

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Manchester United reaches Club World Cup final in Japan

Wayne Rooney came off the bench to score twice in a span of four minutes as European champion Manchester United defeated Japan's Gamba Osaka 5-3 yesterday to advance to the final of the Club World Cup.

United will play South American champions Liga de Quito in Sunday's final.

"The people got their money's worth, that's for sure," United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said. "Their movement on the ball was very good and it shows you how much Japanese football has improved."

The English Premier Club's first-half goals came in identical fashion, with Ryan Giggs corners from the right headed home by Serbian defender Nemanja Vidic and European Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo.

Vidic made it 1-0 in the 28th minute while Ronaldo scored in injury time.

Gamba attacked in the second half, and was rewarded when Masato Yamazaki finished expertly in the 74th minute from a well-worked move down the right flank.

United restored its two-goal buffer straight from the kickoff as Rooney scored with his first touch of the ball in the 75th minute. The England international chested down a pass from at the edge of the, shook off a defender and shot across the advancing 'keeper.

SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Manchester United celebrates a goal yesterday.

Darren Fletcher made it 4-1 in the 78th as the midfielder ghosted into the area to head home.

It was 5-1 just a minute later when Rooney scored again, but Gamba refused to roll over and United goalkeeper Edwin Van der Sar had to be sharp on a number of occasions to protect the advantage.

Ferguson had high praise for Rooney.

"His movement, strength and penetration are very good," Ferguson said. "The goal that really killed them was the third one."

Gamba playmaker Yasuhito Endo calmly converted a penalty in the 85th minute after fullback Gary Neville was judged to have used his arm in blocking an attempted cross. Hideo Hashimoto rifled home a powerful shot in the final minute to enable the Asian champions to leave with heads high despite the loss. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jackson to start in place of Gus Frerotte
The Minnesota Vikings will start Tarvaris Jackson at quarterback Sunday against Atlanta. METRO NEWS SERVICES

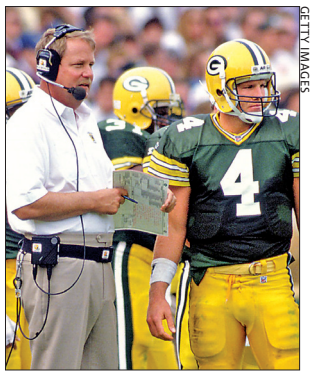
Favre, Holmgren one last time

Brett Favre walked past his private jet at the Green Bay airport three winters ago and sneaked onto the Seahawks' team plane parked next to it. He sat down next to a startled Mike Holmgren and told his old coach and friend he was retiring. Now it's Holmgren's turn.

"After the game, I'm going to hop on their plane and tell him I'm coming back," Holmgren said with a laugh before Favre's AFC East-co-leading New York Jets play on Sunday in Holmgren's home finale as Seattle's coach.

Favre laughed, too, when asked Wednesday what he'd do if Holmgren wandered onto the Jets' chartered plane to confide in him about the coach's planned sabbatical in 2009.

"It's odd, because a couple of years ago I thought it was going to be my last game in Green Bay. I really, really thought that was going to be it," he said. "I remember telling him, 'It's only fitting that you are here for my last game.'"


GETTY IMAGES
Brett Favre credits Mike Holmgren, left, for helping develop him into a Hall of Fame-calibre QB.

They met in Green Bay 17 years ago, an intimidating mentor scolding a frightened student. Favre still remembers the first team meeting the 43-year-old first-time head coach freshly in from San Francisco had with those Packers. Holmgren told half the players he'd soon run them out of town.

The demanding taskmaster spawned Favre's legend. Through sheer stubbornness, Holmgren moulded the rebel to authority and the former option quarterback from Southern Mississippi into the NFL's only three-time MVP and a Super Bowl champion.

Now, they are great friends. They dote on each others' families and have six daughters between them. And they keep intersecting at the supposed ends to their careers.

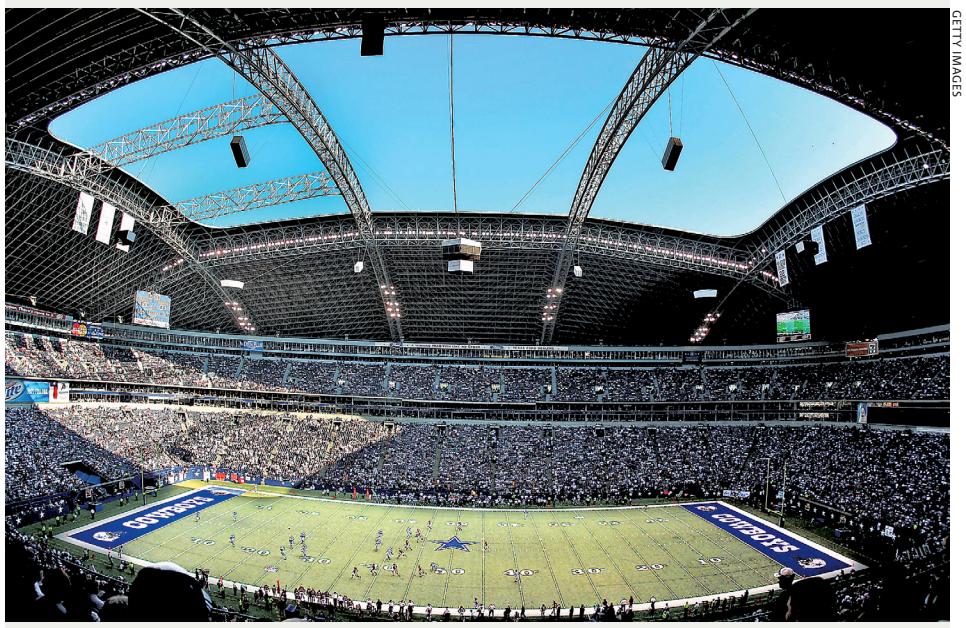
"I would not be here today — I truly believe that I would not be sitting here talking to you guys today, still playing professional football — had it not been for that guy," the 39-year-old Favre said, admiringly.

Yes, Holmgren facing Favre for perhaps the final time is fitting. As fitting as the rare, Lambeau-like snow expected on Sunday in Seattle.

"That's awesome!" Favre said of the forecast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL A Texas farewell


GETTY IMAGES
Barring playoff games, the Dallas Cowboys will play their final game at 37-year-old Texas Stadium Saturday night against the Baltimore Ravens. The unique hole in the roof once led former Cowboys linebacker D.D. Lewis to quip, "Texas Stadium has a hole in the roof so God can watch his favourite team."

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Canadian premiere
Created by veterans of Cirque du soleil, Aga-Boom combines physical comedy, circus arts and more. Runs Dec. 30-Jan. 3 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. (1 p.m. only on Dec. 31; no show Jan. 1). For tickets ($39-$65), call 416-366-7723. Bluma Appel Theatre at St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front St. E. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Holiday Fun Guide

Laugh in the new year

Sean Cullen, left, is set to host a New Year's Eve Comedy Extravaganza on Dec. 31 at 7 p.m. Some of Canada's best comics and sketch artists, including Debra DiGiovanni, will be part of the show at Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St. For tickets ($39.50-$59.50) or more information, call 416-872-4255. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Plan a potluck

NOELLE MUNARETTO
for Metro Canada

A New Year's Eve party at home is a great way to ring in 2009 without breaking the bank, celebrity chefs Anna Olson and Trish Magwood say.

Olson, host of Food Network Canada's Sugar and Fresh, says New Year's Eve parties are taking a less formal shape than before.

"I almost get the same sentiment this year as I did in 1999 when it was the Y2K buzz," she says. "In these economically sensitive times, the reaction is sort of the same and entertaining at home is the way to go."

Olson says the best way to enjoy a New Year's Eve gathering is to keep it simple. She recommends getting together with friends beforehand to plan a potluck party.

"Potluck these days is no longer taboo. It can be a fabulous feast," she says.

In addition to the dishes your guests bring, Olson suggests offering foods such as fine cheese, crudités with dip and lots of sweet treats.

Another option that works well for families is to hold an event on New Year's Day.

"New Year's brunch is a great way to entertain without the pressure of alcohol," said Olson. "Yes, you can have your mimosas and sparkling wine, but unlike an evening party, people tend to indulge less."

Magwood, who is the founder of Dish Cooking Studio and hosted Party Dish on Food Network Canada, says that no matter what type of party you host, planning ahead is key.

"The more you leave things last minute, the bigger the premium you're going to pay, because you're going to be less inclined to do stuff yourself," says Magwood.

Stocking up on your specialty ingredients, pantry staples and liquor should be done well before the party to avoid lineups at the stores. Make-ahead dishes that you only have to reheat on party day are a best bet, too.

Magwood, like Olson, believes that a New Year's Eve potluck takes the stress out of party planning. She recommends serving hearty soup with a store-bought bread boule that has been drizzled with olive oil and warmed in the oven. Not only is it economical, but Magwood also says your whole house will smell like freshly baked bread.

The most important advice Magwood offers any party host is to create an event that actually allows them time away from the kitchen.

"If you're going to go to the trouble of hosting a party, you better be able to relax and enjoy it yourself," says Magwood. "Otherwise, you're going to be unhappy going into 2009."

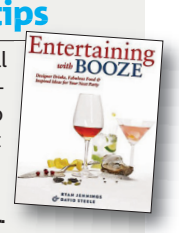
FOOD NETWORK CANADA PHOTOS

Hosting a potluck reduces party planning stress, chefs Trish Magwood, left, and Anna Olson say.

On the web

- Go to metronews.ca to get Anna Olson's recipes for Artichoke Asiago Squares and Sweet Onion Dip with Veggies.

Hosting tips



These tips will have you looking like a pro at your next function:

- **Prepare for the teetotallers.** Some people don't drink booze (can you believe it?!) while others may have to drive home. That doesn't mean you shouldn't make them feel special. Prepare a virgin cocktail or serve them sparkling water in wine glasses and garnish it with a few frozen berries. Pretty, delicious and road-safe.
- **Split the food in half.** Cut wedges of cheese in two, keep a bag of shrimp on reserve and save a box of crackers, for example. This way you can replenish and refresh — it keeps the buffet table looking good and ensures food isn't sitting out for several hours at a time.
- **Rent glassware, dishes and linens.** Party rentals are relatively inexpensive and they show up clean and go away dirty. No dishes and no worries about breakage — worth every penny the next day, and so much more sophisticated than plastic, not to mention environmentally friendlier.
- **Hire help.** Dinner parties for more than 12 and cocktail parties for more than 30 should be catered. Even if you insist on preparing all the food yourself, hire a bartender and one or two servers to staff the ovens, clear the mess and mix the drinks. It's your party and you should be mingling with your guests, not stuck in the kitchen.

Excerpt from Entertaining With Booze: Designer Drinks, Fabulous Food & Inspired Ideas for Your Next Party, by Ryan Jennings and David Steele (paperback, $29.95).

Advice to help guests drink responsibly

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

The champagne cork pops, the booze flows and chorales of Auld Lang Syne ring out at your party. It's New Year's Eve again, a time for tipsiness.

But understand that if you're hosting an event where guests will consume alcohol, you've got some responsibilities by virtue of the booze being belted back under your roof. While you might not have the same sort of legal responsibility as a bar owner, know that some people at your party may overdo it and make a bad decision — and you might end up paying the price for their mistakes.

If someone at your party is obviously drunk and you continue to provide them alcohol, you can be sued if they injure themselves or others, either at the event or on the way home. This includes property under your control at the time of the event — if you rent a hall, for instance.

The odds of this are low due to a precedent set by the Zoe Childs case in 2006, where the Supreme Court found that hosts who provided a venue for an adult BYOB event had no legal responsibility when a guest left intoxicated and caused a crash. Not so low, however, if the drinking involves underage teens — where courts will deal with you more severely if you buy or provide booze for a minor. But you do have a moral obligation to take care of your guests, notes Wanda Kristensen, director of programs at MADD Canada.

"If your guest is clearly intoxicated and planning to drive home, you've got a lot of choices. Chances are if you know them, you can expect who those people will be," she said. "You can take their keys and call a taxi, they can stay over and sober up, or you can have a designated driver."

Easier said than done if you're dealing with a nasty drunk. If someone gets belligerent with you, and nothing works, you can call 9-1-1 and let police know there's an impaired driver on the road. "They catch more people like this than R.I.D.E. programs do," notes Kristensen.

If you're hosting an event where guests will drink, you have some responsibilities.

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Holiday Fun Guide

events

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Capping off Soulpepper's 10th anniversary season, this play has founding member Joseph Ziegler reprising his critically acclaimed performance as Ebenezer Scrooge. Runs to Dec. 24. ($44-$65 at 416-866-8666).Young Centre for the Performing Arts, 55 Mill St., Bldg. 49. soulpepper.ca.

THE NUTCRACKER The National Ballet of Canada celebrates the holidays with James Kudelka's version of The Nutcracker with the music of Tchaikovsky. Performances run to Dec. 28 ($33-$117 at 416-345-9595). Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen St. W. national.ballet.ca.

BALLET JORGEN presents The Group of Seven Nutcracker, a new Canadian version of the classic, inspired by works from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. Dec. 19 at 7 p.m., Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. & 7 p.m. ($30-$45 at 905-874-2800). Rose Theatre, 1 Theatre Lane, Brampton. Also Dec. 29 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 30 at 2 p.m. ($33/$29 at 905-305-7469). Markham Theatre, 171 Town Centre Blvd.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER SHOWS at Allan Gardens and Centennial Park Conservatories showcases many new varieties of poinsettias. Shows run to Dec. 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Candlelight visits to Dec. 23, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. (free). Allan Gardens — Carlton Street between Jarvis & Sherbourne Streets. 416-392-7288; Centennial Park — 151 Elmcrest Rd. 416-394-8543.

The Group of Seven Nutcracker by Ballet Jorgen runs to Dec. 20.

TRAIL OF LIGHTS This walk-through holiday light show at Downsview Park is a two-kilometre route with hundreds of themed light displays set to festive music — over half are animated. The event also has a huge holiday tree, horse-drawn carriage rides, photos with Santa and more. Runs to Dec. 31 from 5 p.m.-10 p.m. ($10-$12). 35 Carl Hall Rd. downsviewpark.ca.

CASA LOMA's holiday programming includes a musical comedy version of the fairy tale classic Sleeping Beauty and The Toy Castle. Both run to Jan. 4. You can also visit the Evil Fairy Queen's Wicked Lair, catch the Flying Fairies or see Saint Nick (to Dec. 24). Info/adv. tickets at casaloma.org. 1 Austin Terrace.

MELODY & MAGIC's five-minute synchronized light and sound shows light up the big Dome and Santa's Video Tree with more than 250,000 LED lights choreographed to holiday classics. Runs to Dec. 24 starting 5 p.m. every half hour. Square One Shopping Centre, Hwy. 403 & Hurontario St., Mississauga.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED runs to Dec. 31 at Black Creek Pioneer Village (free with admission); enjoy Christmas by Lamplight with fiddlers, traditional treats and 200+ artefact lamps illuminating the village, Dec. 20 (ticketed event); enjoy Christmas dinner Dec. 21 with sittings at 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. (reservations required). 1000 Murray Ross Parkway. 416-736-1733 or blackcreek.ca.

COLBORNE LODGE is decorated for a Victorian Christmas. Tour the home of the founders of High Park, discover festive traditions, decorations and foods enjoyed during the 19th century. Runs to Jan. 4, every Tues. to Sun. noon to 4 p.m. ($5.71/$3.81/$3.33 + GST). Colborne Lodge Dr. in High Park. 416-392-6916.

MACKENZIE HOUSE takes visitors back in time with A Victorian Toronto Christmas. Tour the 1859 row-house dressed in holiday greenery, sample mulled cider and a biscuit in the historic kitchen. Runs to Jan. 4, 2009. ($5.71/$3.81/$3.33 plus GST). 82 Bond St. 416-392-6915.

CHRISTMAS TREATS WALK at the Toronto Zoo features strolling carollers and all the animals getting their very own seasonal goodies. Enjoy some hot chocolate after the walk. Dec. 26 at 10 a.m. (half-price admission all day; bring non-perishable food item). Toronto Zoo, Meadowvale Rd. & Hwy 401 E. torontozoo.com.

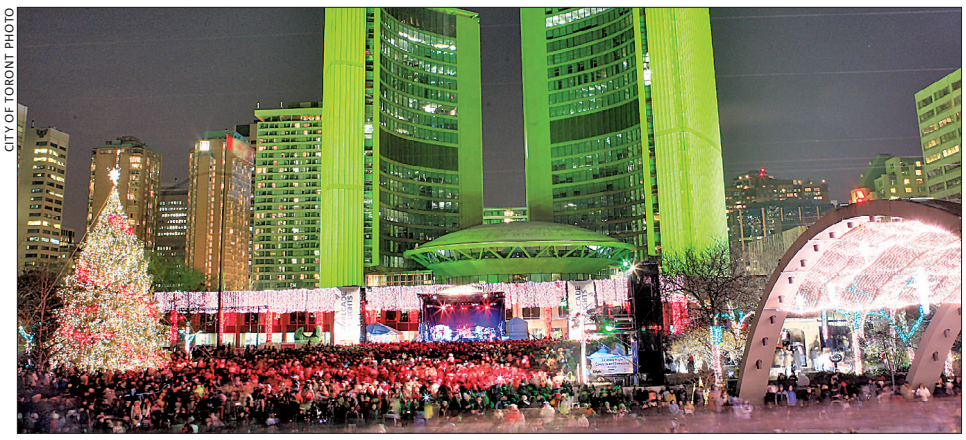
SING-ALONG MESSIAH with the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and Baroque Orchestra. Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. ($29.50 at 416-872-4255). Massey Hall, 178 Victoria St.

CAROLS WITH FRIENDS at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church, followed by mulled cider and cookies, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. (bring can of food for the food bank). 399 Bayview Ave. stcuthbertsleaside.com.

SHLOCK ROCK FAMILY CHANUKAH CONCERT Dec. 25 at 2:30 p.m. Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, 83 Green Lane, Thornhill. 905-886-0420.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jazz it up
Bob DeAngelis and his Champagne Orchestra perform Dec. 31 at 2 p.m. ($39-$99 at 416-872-4255) At Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St. METRO NEWS SERVICES


CITY OF TORONT PHOTO

Interior designer Brian Gluckstein trimmed the tree this year at Nathan Phillips Square.

Light festival shines

NOELLE MUNARETTO
for Metro Canada

Neighbourhoods around Toronto have been busy this December stringing up thousands of bulbs for the city's 42nd annual Cavalcade of Lights festival.

The event, which had its humble beginnings in 1967 as a figure skating and tree lighting party at Toronto City Hall, has now grown to encompass 20 neighbourhoods.

Carole Boughannam is the programming manager of special events for the City of Toronto and she also oversees the festival. She says the Cavalcade of Lights is the perfect way to welcome the holiday season.

"It's a magical night. It's nice to come together with everybody in one place around the city, celebrating the holidays," she says. "When you're surrounded by lights, and you've got the Christmas tree there, it feels so special."

One of the most impressive parts of the Cavalcade of Lights is found at Nathan Phillips Square. Event organizers teamed up with renowned interior designer Brian Gluckstein to trim this year's 60-foot-tall, all natural tree.

Gluckstein also designed the surrounding 300,000-bulb lighting display using a "modern Canadiana" theme. Concrete poles are wrapped in bright red lights, sheets of sparkling white icicle lights drape down over the walkway, and the garden beds are carpeted with bulbs.

Tomorrow night marks the last day special programming is offered at the square to coincide with the festival. Singer Serena Ryder will perform and a skating party with a live DJ and fireworks will follow.

Boughannam says these additional events entice tourists and Toronto residents alike to come out and embrace their city's festive spirit.

"It's a nice time of year to engage the citizens of Toronto, to create a nice atmosphere in the city when people are coming in for their holiday shopping," she says.

Boughannam says that 100 per cent of the lights used for the festival are energy efficient LEDs.

"The whole city has to be conscious of the energy issues that are out there ... and it's important that we're responsible and we're trying to really think about the environment," she says.

The last concert and skating party will start at 7 p.m. tomorrow at Nathan Phillips Square. Lighting displays for the Cavalcade of Lights will remain lit until the first week of January.

If you go...

- Serena Ryder performs tomorrow as part of the Cavalcade of Lights at Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St. W. For more, go to toronto.ca or call 416-338-0338.

Citytv bash 'guaranteed fun'

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

Dina Pugliese wants to see Kevin Frankish streak in "nothing but suspenders and strategically placed mistletoe."

She kids, of course. But the co-host of Citytv's morning show Breakfast Television looks forward to a high-energy evening when she joins her partner in crime for Citytv New Year's Bash 2009. It's the 24th annual party where personalities from the station — among them Tracy Moore and Gord Martineau — ring in the new year in front of a crowd of more than 40,000. Starting at 10:30 p.m., the event includes musical performances by Suzie McNeil and Danny Fernandes.

Dina Pugliese.

"I've said too much!" she laughs. "It's going to be an alcohol-free family event and a guaranteed good time for free. Remember when the Jays won the World Series for the first time and everyone was hugging each other? It's going to have that kind of atmosphere. People coming together, a sea of solidarity."

Pugliese advises those attending to arrive early. The TTC is definitely the better way to get home as it will offer free subway service all night and cabs will be next to impossible to find. She also advises you to dress warmly, recalling a past bash where she braved inclement hairdo-mangling weather in a strapless dress.

"One year, I was on the stage and my producer to the side said to me, 'Your hair, fix it,'" she said. "The wind got to it. It looked like a rat crawling out of a sewer."

Manhandled manes aside, Pugliese wants everyone to have a good time.

"Let's hope 2009 goes as well as the party will," she said. "We've all had such a tough time with all the bad news about the economy. People deserve to have fun."

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Movies&Entertainment

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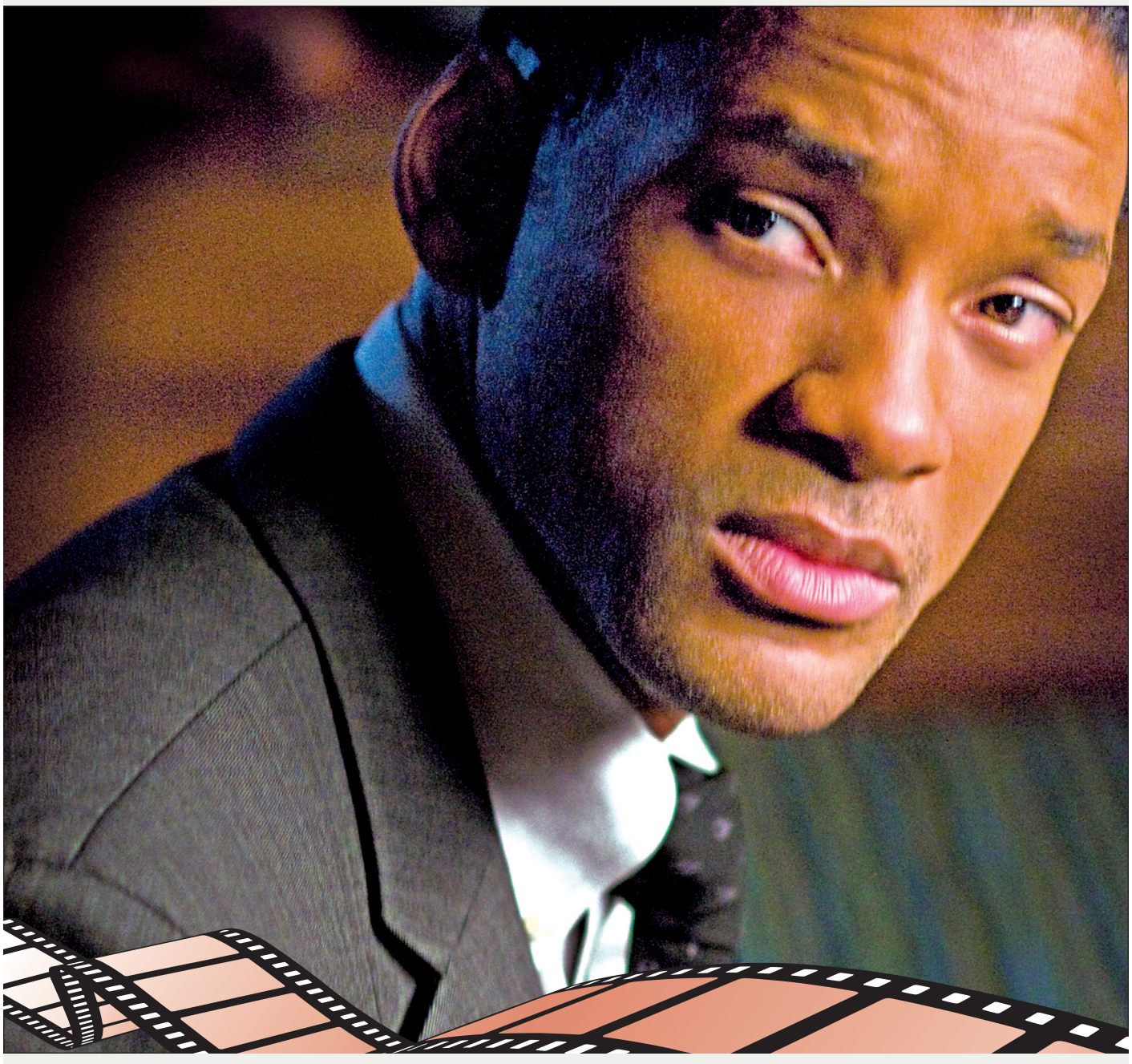
Movies

A new man

Pg 38



In the new drama Seven Pounds, Will Smith is armed with sunken eyes and a haunted posture — the hallmarks of the traumatized man he plays. Smith's committed to giving us a 180-degree turn from his usual charming go-getters.

movie

Pg 38

Yes Man shows Carrey back at humble, funny roots.

music

Pg 48

Fall Out Boy, no strangers to celebrity, are fighting back.

going out

Pg 52

Madden debuts his Frankie Valli role in Jersey Boys.

Cruise would consider another vampire role

Interview With A Vampire star Tom Cruise has told T magazine editor Lynn Hirshberg he wasn't surprised by the success of Twilight, and that he'd "like to make another" vampire movie. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman star in Doubt.

Doubt leads SAG nominations

AWARDS The Catholic school drama Doubt led contenders yesterday for the Screen Actors Guild Awards with five nominations, including honours for Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams and Viola Davis.

The late Heath Ledger also earned a supporting-actor nomination, whose maniacal turn as the Joker in The Dark Knight has made him an Academy Awards front-runner. The Batman blockbuster also had a nomination for best stunt ensemble.

Streep has a lead-actress nomination, while Hoffman, Adams and Davis are competing in supporting categories for Doubt, a war-of-wills tale between an old-school nun and a progressive priest.

Doubt also has a nomination for overall cast performance, along with the romantic fantasy The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, the Richard Nixon saga Frost/Nixon, Milk and Slumdog Millionaire.

Kate Winslet grabbed two nominations, best actress for the domestic drama Revolutionary Roadand supporting actress for the Holocaust-themed story The Reader.

Other best-actress nominees were: Anne Hathaway, Rachel Getting Married; Angelina Jolie, Changeling; and Melissa Leo, Frozen River.

Nominated for best actor were: Richard Jenkins, The Visitor; Frank Langella, Frost/Nixon; Sean Penn, Milk; Brad Pitt, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; and Mickey Rourke, The Wrestler.

The 15th annual SAG Awards will air live on TNT and TBS Jan. 25, four weeks before the Academy Awards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAG nominees

- Actor: Richard Jenkins, The Visitor; Frank Langella, Frost/Nixon; Sean Penn, Milk; Brad Pitt, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Mickey Rourke, The Wrestler.
- Actress: Anne Hathaway, Rachel Getting Married; Angelina Jolie, Changeling; Melissa Leo, Frozen River; Meryl Streep, Doubt; Kate Winslet, Revolutionary Road.
- Supporting actor: Josh Brolin, Milk; Robert Downey Jr., Tropic Thunder; Philip Seymour Hoffman, Doubt; Heath Ledger, The Dark Knight; Dev Patel, Slumdog Millionaire.
- Supporting actress: Amy Adams, Doubt; Penelope Cruz, Vicky Cristina Barcelona; Viola Davis, Doubt; Taraji P. Henson, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Kate Winslet, The Reader.
- Cast: Doubt, Frost/Nixon, Milk, Slumdog Millionaire, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.
- Stunt ensemble: The Dark Knight, Hellboy II: The Golden Army, Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, Iron Man, Wanted.

Seven Pounds weighs on viewers

Seven Pounds

Director: Gabriele Muccino
Stars: Will Smith, Rosario Dawson
Classification: 14A
Rating:

ROBERT ABELE
for Metro Canada

Will Smith stars in the drama Seven Pounds.

It's an unusual sight, Will Smith looking uncomfortable in his own skin, armed with sunken eyes and a haunted posture.

These are the hallmarks of the traumatized character he plays in the new drama Seven Pounds — and as committed as the box office star is to giving us a 180-degree turn from his usual charming go-getters, the movie around him is something of an overly manipulative, good-for-you slog.

Smith stars as Ben Thomas, a man in full-on suffering from the emotional after-effects of a traumatic incident, the details of which the movie keeps hidden till the end, but aren't hard to ascertain.

Spurred to seek redemption, he takes it upon himself to intrude upon and help the lives of seven carefully chosen people, including a hospitalized boy, a blind call centre worker (Woody Harrelson), and a beautiful cardiac patient (Rosario Dawson).

Dawson's character, an artisan typesetter with a bum heart and financial problems, naturally becomes the unsuspecting catalyst to Ben's accepting love in his austerely determined life.

Rather than lay all their cards on the table as to what Ben is up to, screenwriter Grant Nieporte and director Gabriele Muccino traffic in ersatz suspense, keeping the nature of Ben's sacrificial charity mission secret so that the love story carries maximum tearjerk power when it reaches its twist ending.

It's an audience game that diverts our energies away from the human emotions, though.

And, unfortunately, the big reveal is no surprise, and even comes off as faintly ludicrous and bizarre, something for an episode of Ripley's Believe It or Not rather than a touching drama of two souls — each with a different version of a broken heart — finding each other.

It's all especially dispiriting considering how well Smith and director Muccino worked on their previous collaboration, the emotionally tense and genuinely uplifting The Pursuit of Happyness. Smith and Dawson are fine actors, but they're trapped in a movie in which they're more pawns than people.

Carrey agreeable in Yes Man

Yes Man

Director: Peyton Reed
Stars: Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel
Classification: PG
Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Jim Carrey has a fatal flaw — his fans aren't sure what to expect from him anymore. After years of exploring slapstick in laughers like Ace Ventura, Carrey has meandered into melodramatic muck like The Majestic and The Number 23 in an effort to be taken seriously.

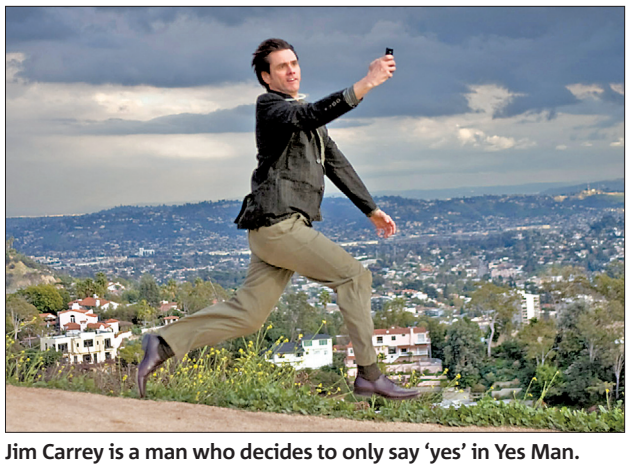
With Yes Man, it seems Carrey may be heeding his film's own counsel and just enjoying the ride come what may.

It's definitely an approach that works for him — if not entirely for the movie.

Based on a true memoir, Carrey plays a pessimistic bank loan officer who avoids friends to spend evenings alone and basically wallow in his misery.

After being convinced by a self-help guru to "make a covenant" and say yes to everything, he suddenly finds a world of opportunity — for better or worse.

For Carrey the character, that means taking up an online mail-order bride, attending a Harry Potter-themed party, plowing back Red Bulls all night and falling for a free-spirited musician (Zooey Deschanel).



Jim Carrey is a man who decides to only say 'yes' in Yes Man.

For Carrey the actor, it means getting to re-explore both his famed physical stuntwork — like slipping on a drink (which actually earned him three broken ribs) and the more subtle side that charmed audiences in films like The Truman Show.

Sometimes it works, sometimes not, but the truth is, this comedy has a lot of heart and in spite of its formulaic conclusion, Yes Man is undeniably the most honest effort we've seen from Carrey in a while. Perhaps this Yes Man has a few tricks up his sleeve yet.

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Johansson's tissue being auctioned

NBC is auctioning off a tissue used by Scarlett Johansson to clear her nose during a Tonight Show interview with Jay Leno. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the food-gathering charity USA Harvest. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Eastwood's back, grumbling and growling

Gran **Torino**

Director: Clint Eastwood
Stars: Clint Eastwood
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●½

REVIEW Considering that Clint Eastwood's most iconic roles have been serious ones, it's easy to forget that he can be funny — that he possesses terrific timing with his sly sense of humour.

He grumbles and growls his way through his most entertaining performance in years in Gran Torino as Walt Kowalski, a Korean War veteran and lifelong auto worker who's disgusted with the changes in his blue-collar, suburban Detroit neighbourhood.

There are unshakable shades of Dirty Harry here, as well as Frankie Dunn, the curmudgeonly character he played in 2004's Million Dollar Baby, his most recent screen appearance.

At 78, Eastwood combines both the tough and playful sides of his personality — in front of and behind the camera as star and director — with Gran Torino.

It begins in broadly entertaining fashion but ultimately reveals that it has weightier matters on its mind. Having just buried his saintly wife, all the retired Walt wants to do is be left alone with his dog, his guns and his beer — a seemingly never-ending supply of Pabst Blue Ribbon. He drinks it with an old-school earnestness rather than in a kitschy, hipsterish way.

His grown sons suggest that perhaps he'd be happier living in some antiseptic nursing home, and the local Catholic priest comes by, sensing that Walt might need to unburden himself and urging him to give a long overdue confession.

He blows them all off repeatedly. As a sharp-tongued bigot, he certainly doesn't want to be bothered by the growing Asian population all around him, and especially not the Hmong family living next door.

Despite hurling every imaginable epithet at these people — Nick Schenk's script is unabashed in its political incorrectness — Walt can't seem to avoid them.

First, he catches the shy teenage son Thao (Bee Vang) trying to steal his mint-condition 1972 Ford Gran Torino as part of a gang initiation he's forced into by his thug cousin. Then, cultural tradition dictates that Thao must make up for the transgression by working for Walt for free.

And, when he orders a group of gang members at gunpoint to, "Get off my lawn" — with echoes of Eastwood's classic "Go ahead, make my day," — he's perceived as a vigilante hero among the Hmong community.

Sure, the premise is predictable. Gran Torino becomes more intriguing as the journey it takes us on evolves and grows darker, albeit with Eastwood's trademark, no-nonsense aesthetic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Classic story gets new tail

The Tale of **Despereaux**

Director: Sam Fell and Robert Stevenhagen
Stars: Matthew Broderick, Emma Watson
Classification: G
Rating: ●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

The Tale Of Despereaux is a classically told fairy tale that relishes the conventions and limitations of its genre.

The story feels almost old fashioned in the earnestness of its style and message, but in a weird way that elevates it over the ever-growing pile of CGI children's films clogging theatres.

This is hardly the most original movie of its kind, but it is oddly refreshing to see a movie like this told without a shred of irony.

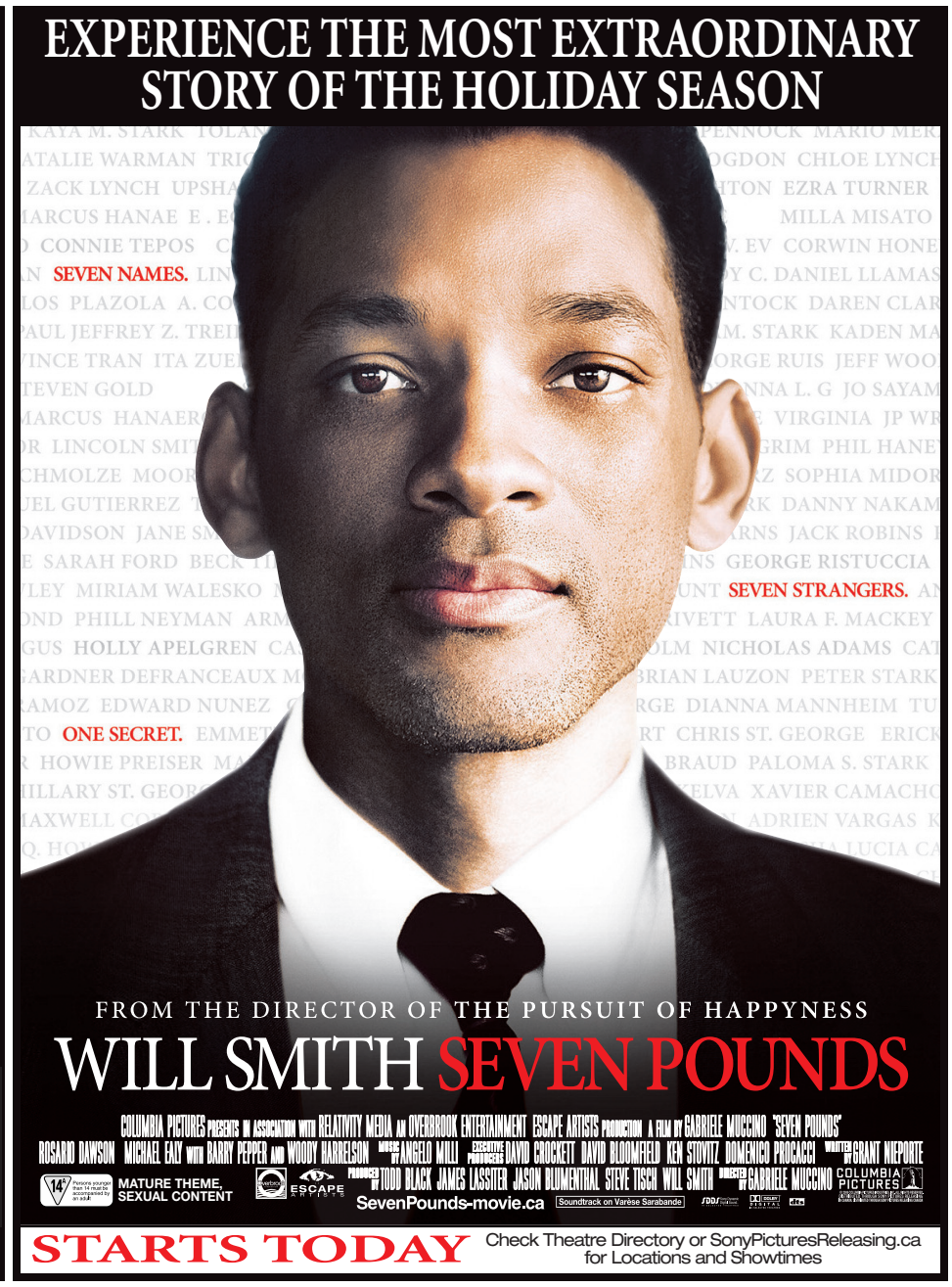
Matthew Broderick lends his instantly recognizable voice to the titular character of Despereaux, a mouse with massive ears and an inflated sense of courage who dreams of adventure and heroism.

While the rest of the mice who live hidden in a medieval castle lead an insular life in fear of humans, Despereaux ventures out of his community to save a dying kingdom. Like I said, pretty standard stuff, but the screenplay by Gary Ross is so tightly constructed and filled with gentle humor that the intended audience won't notice. It's undoubtedly Ross' contribution that made this potentially clichéd story work. Ross has made a career out of writing gentle fantasies like Big, Seabiscuit, and Pleasantville that make traditional storytelling, plots, and messages feel alive and new. His script is brought to life admirably by the directing team of Sam Fell and Robert Stevenhagen, who use their many years of experience in animation to create a technical marvel that doesn't quite match the triumphs of Pixar, but comes damn close.

Matthew Broderick provides the the voice of Despereaux.

As is expected, the voice cast is filled with recognizable actors, but rather than simply casting stars the film uses talented actors like Dustin Hoffman, Emma Watson, and William H. Macy to play characters who are actually suited to their talents.

Make no mistake, this is a very simple movie offering simple pleasures. But in a time when most children's entertainment is struggling to seem cynical, edgy, and hip, The Tale Of Despereaux offers an unexpected breath of fresh air.



Delgo tanks at box office
Delgo took home a big prize last weekend. The animated movie voiced by Freddie Prinze Jr., Jennifer Love Hewitt, and Val Kilmer had the poorest opening weekend ever. The movie only made $511,920 US, according to Box Office Mojo. **EONLINE.COM**

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Art imitating life for Rourke

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Movie **profile**

All art imitates life and nowhere is this adage more resonant than in director Darren Aronofsky's latest peek into the darker recesses of the human heart, The Wrestler.

The film follows the lonely twilight days of former wrestling superstar Randy (The Ram) Robinson as he desperately attempts to grapple with age, ego and the physical toll his profession has racked against his body.

But the film's real fascination — it opens Christmas Day — lies in the eerie manner in which The Ram's misfortunes echo those of the man who plays him: '80s movie icon Mickey Rourke, who delivers a dynamic, career-best performance that has Oscar written all over it.

Once considered the heir apparent to both Marlon Brando and Robert DeNiro, Rourke — after starring in such tough, uncompromising cult favorites as Diner, The Year of the Dragon, Angel Heart and Barfly — endured a plethora of public humiliations (his rocky relationship with ex-wife Carre Otis is well-documented) before abandoning his craft to pursue his first love, boxing. By the time he returned to the screen in the late '90s, the party was long over.

"I was on the bench for 13 years," says Rourke about those darker days. "And after a while you start to say, 'Is it really over like everyone says it is?' I mean, I'd be buying a pack of cigarettes at two in the morning and some guy would come up to me and ask why I don't work anymore, or mention 91/2 Weeks and Angel Heart, and I mean, you can't pay your rent on that."

Screenwriter Robert Siegel wrote the part of The Ram specifically for Rourke, basing the character on his own admiration for the actor's past cinematic glories.

Mickey Rourke plays a beaten and battered wrestler trying for a comeback in The Wrestler.

The Wrestler — which sees Rourke delivering a shattering emotional and physical performance — marks the official return (after a minor success in 2005's Sin City) of the once-troubled actor to the Hollywood big leagues.

"It feels strange, very strange and almost painfully nice," says Rourke about his sudden career renaissance. "I behaved terribly in those early days and I never realized there were going to be repercussions for my actions. I've been fortunate enough along the way to have access to good advice to make changes in my life. I just didn't think it was going to take me 10 years to work it all out."

A Taraji-fest with Brad Pitt

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

FEATURE When Taraji Henson found out she was going to be co-starring alongside Brad Pitt in their new drama The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, you'd think the young actress would have brushed up on her famous co-star's filmography. Instead, it was Pitt who celebrated what he called "Taraji-fest."

"He made it a point to watch all of my films," said Henson during a recent interview. "He was so impressed with what I was doing with my character Queenie that he wanted to see other stuff that I had done and he watched all of my films and had nothing but good things to say."

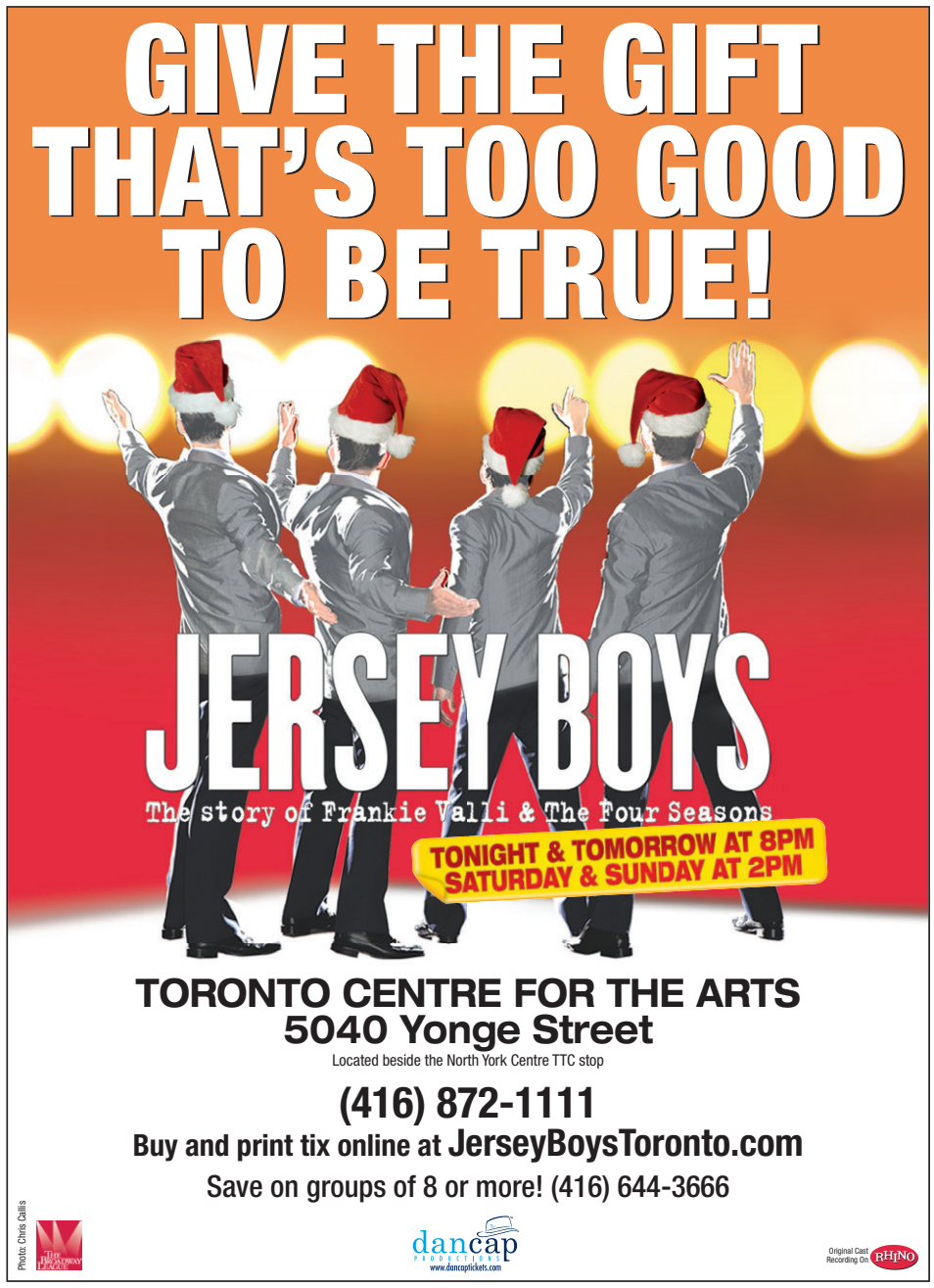
Best recognized for her turn in 2005's Hustle & Flow, critics have also had nothing but good things to say about Henson — especially since portraying the adopted mother of Benjamin Button (Pitt), a man who is born in his 80s and mysteriously ages backwards.

"Age is such a big deal. Everybody is afraid of it but it's inevitable," admits Henson. "I think you hold on to youth by embracing what's going to happen."

That's the name of the game in Benjamin Button (it opens Christmas Day) but this highly-anticipated film isn't without another life-affirming message — namely that "our lives are defined by opportunities, even the ones we miss."

"You either catch that opportunity or you miss it and you regret it later or you're happy that you didn't," claims Henson of the film's central theme. "Life is full of circumstances and you just never know."

For Henson, one of those circumstances found her sitting four hours in the make-up chair to seemingly advance her age late in the film. "I personally chose to sit for the whole four hours and let them finish," laughed Henson. "Brad Pitt, however, had to take breaks, which I can understand."



Ford to appear in comedy

Harrison Ford is taking a break from fighting bad guys and saving the world to try his hand in a comedic role. The 66-year-old actor has signed onto the film Morning Glory, the Hollywood Reporter says. MSN.COM

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Better late than never for The Spirit

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

When it makes its debut in theatres on Christmas Day, The Spirit will prove that you're never too old to make it in Hollywood.

Based on a classic comic book by Will Eisner, it's taken more than 65 years and the mind of Frank Miller to finally bring the pulp fiction hero to the cinema. Along the way, the Sin City filmmaker picked up some amazing talent including Samuel L. Jackson, Eva Mendes and Scarlett Johansson.

"I'm not really a comic book fan," admitted Johansson recently in New York. "What brought me to this project was Frank. I loved Sin City and thought he must be a pretty interesting fellow."

Movie **feature**

Apparently he was. After an initial three-hour lunch meeting, Johansson "just felt like being a part of his vision" and, apparently, the feeling was mutual.

Miller quickly realized he was "conversing with one of the great comedic talents of our times. It was like working with a young Lucille Ball."

If that reference seems somewhat nostalgic, it was designed that way. After all, one cannot overlook the playful nature of Miller's movie with its war-time-era ancestry.

Set in the fictional Central City, The Spirit tells the story of Denny Colt (Gabriel Macht), a murdered cop who is mysteriously resurrected.

While struggling to rediscover his identity, he patrols the city battling crime and his arch-nemeses — the nefarious Octopus (Samuel L. Jackson) and his brilliant sidekick (Johansson).

"It's an honour to walk into a situation and put flesh and blood to a character that's only been a pair of gloves (until now)," said Jackson, regarding his character's cryptic appearance in the comic.

"I kind of took that as my licence to do all the things I ever wanted to do on a film and chew up scenery and not get criticized for it."

And The Spirit definitely allows for that. With a powerful tone, Miller's strong protagonists pay special homage to the characters he loved from classical film noir.

"What brought me to this project was Frank (Miller). I loved Sin City and thought he must be a pretty interesting fellow."
Scarlett Johansson

"I was really thrilled with the voices in this movie. Gabriel's is straight up (legendary detective novelist) Raymond Chandler and Eva's is, well, Eva's," stated Miller before laughing. "I guess we had to put up with Sam."

Samuel L. Jackson plays the nefarious Octopus in Frank Miller's adaptation of the crime-comic The Spirit.

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Writer pleased Valkyrie finally found its wings

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

FEATURE Christopher McQuarrie is as shocked as anyone that Valkyrie found its wings. In fact, the award-winning filmmaker — mostly regarded for writing The Usual Suspects — never even expected his latest movie to get off the ground.

"Scripts like this, I write them and put them in a drawer," admitted McQuarrie — who also co-produced Valkyrie — during a recent phone interview.

The true story of an inside assassination plot against Adolf Hitler in 1944, Valkyrie is definitely the sort of film Hollywood generally shuns like the plague. So what inspired the scribe to script a story he assumed wasn't sellable?

"The thing that really amazed me was that the assassination itself was not the end of the story," said McQuarrie. "Once you've killed Hitler, you've only just started and now what you have to do is take over his government."

It's just that complexity behind the plot that intrigued McQuarrie. "The challenge of history is not how it ends, it's how to give that ending meaning ... what these men did and the sacrifices they made ultimately brings this movie to what I feel is a really satisfying conclusion."

Lucky for McQuarrie, his Usual Suspects director Bryan Singer (who also helmed X-Men and Superman Returns) shared that sentiment. After all, it was Singer that became the driving force in getting the subversive script out of the drawer and in front of financiers.

Tom Cruise stars in Valkyrie.

With such a hitmaker as Singer behind it, Valkyrie "went from a script that nobody wanted to read to a script that no one needed to read."

Throw in Tom Cruise — who plays Stauffenberg, the fascinating mind behind the assassination plot — and there was no looking back for McQuarrie and Valkyrie.

"I knew, having met with Tom, that he was going to look at the script and see it for what it was, not for what he was going to turn it into," admitted McQuarrie, adding that he was impressed by Cruise's fearless dedication throughout.

"No matter how big the movie got, he never did anything to attempt to change its soul."

Valkyrie opens Christmas Day across Canada.

Cronenberg appointed to Canadian Film Centre's board
The Canadian Film Centre appointed David Cronenberg to its board of directors this week. Cronenberg's directing credits include A History of Violence and Eastern Promises. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●●○ EXCELLENT; ●●●○○ GOOD; ●●○○○ FAIR; ●○○○○ POOR

Where there's a Will people

InFocus

Richard Crouse
mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Will Smith is the world's biggest movie star: Nobody can touch him. Cruise jumped the couch, Clooney's movies don't make any money and Hanks appears to be in semi-retirement. Only Johnny Depp comes close and he is a distant second.

Last year Big Willie took home $80 million and became the first actor to have eight consecutive movies break the $100 million mark at the box office, but despite all that success a couple of key qualifiers have eluded his grasp.

His home is probably beautiful, but no movie star abode is complete without an Oscar or Golden Globe on the mantle. Cruise has three Globes, Clooney an Oscar and Tom Hanks could start a petting zoo with all his Academy Awards.

Smith has none but it's not for lack of trying.

He's best known for playing cops and agents but in his first big screen role, Six Degrees of Separation, he played a gay con man who claims to be the son of Sidney Poitier. The movie earned an Oscar nod for co-star Stockard Channing but nothing for Will's risky performance.

He says that movie taught him to be totally committed to his roles, adding that he now regrets taking Denzel Washington's advice not to kiss a man on-screen.

"It was very immature on my part," he says. "I was thinking, 'What are my friends in Philly going to think about this?' This was a valuable lesson for me. Either you do it or you don't."

GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Will Smith

In subsequent films, the ones that made him a star, he developed the tools that came to define his on-screen persona; the cocky tilt of the head and hipster charm. Those tricks win over audiences but don't win awards.

Then along came a pair of films that put him on the serious-actor-grid, The Legend of Bagger Vance and Ali. Bagger Vance earned poor reviews and even worse box office, but the Michael Mann film about the legendary fighter gave Smith his first Oscar bait lead role.

For the next few years he seemed content to rule the box office, but two collaborations with Italian director Gabriele Muccino — The Pursuit of Happyness and Seven Pounds, in theatres today— have brought him closer to the award's circle.

"Gabriele Mucchino," Smith says, "is able to help me create characters that are much different from what I would do on my own."

Pundits called their first collaboration Pursuit of an Oscar Nomination and you can almost sense him groping for the award in Seven Pounds, but I fear he doesn't stand a chance this year against Sean Penn, Mickey Rourke and Frank Langella.

He may just have to settle for world domination and leave the awards for the poor folks.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

Movie morsels

Four Christmases
●●●○○

REVIEW Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon star as a professional couple who always avoid their families during Christmas. After the film's worst plot contrivance traps them in the country and broadcasts their availability to their kin, the couple embark on their dreaded four Christmases. Sure, this is no future Christmas classic, but it will be a movie that you won't angrily turn off when it starts airing on television during the holidays.

Phil Brown/Metro Canada

Role Models
●●●●○

REVIEW Without its leading men — one uses the term loosely in this case — Role Models would be just another installment in the sub-Apatow genre, which is to say a comedy based on character and dialogue and the odd kick in the nuts. But the performances elevate this movie. Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott are simply the best parts of a great cast that delivers a barrage of laughs.

Rick McGinnis/Metro Canada

Transporter 3
●●●½

REVIEW The latest entry in the lucrative but critically maligned franchise, simply called Transporter 3, and once more pits an iron jawed, black belt-sporting mercenary driver Frank Martin (Jason Statham) against a cabal of greasy, well tailored international baddies. And while the film boasts the same clunky narrative problems and distractingly dubbed European actors as the first two installments, I'm happy to report that the breathlessly-paced Transporter makes amends by delivering some of the most delirious action set pieces of this or any other year.

Chris Alexander/Metro Canada

44 movies&entertainment

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

The anti-Christmas classic

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

'Tis the season when folks across the globe gather to celebrate love, friendship and the good fortunes that life can sometimes bring. Yet for many, Christmas is a time of great melancholy; for others still, it's an occasion that can stir the most volatile, unstable and irrational of emotional responses.

The latter headspace is where poor holiday-obsessed toymaker Harry Stadling (Brandon Maggart) squarely sits. He's the homicidal, completely crackers, Santa suit-wearing anti-hero of writer/director Lewis Jackson's woefully ignored and misunderstood anti-Xmas cult classic Christmas Evil (a.k.a. You Better Watch Out).

Since its release in the early '80s, Christmas Evil has long been lumped into the same bloody bin as sleazy St. Nick-slashers like Silent Night, Deadly Night. But in reality, the film is an entirely different anti-social animal.

"One executive (said) to me if only I'd had Santa cut off a kid's fingers and eat them, I'd be a millionaire."
Lewis Jackson

"The major inspirations for the film were Taxi Driver, the melodrama's of Douglas Sirk and Fritz Lang's M.," says Jackson, who will be attending Wednesday's screening of the film at the Bloor Cinema — and take part in a rare Q-and-A.

"When the film came out, I was just pulverized. Not because it was a horror film with Santa Claus in it, but because it didn't meet the genre-specific requirements that the Reagan-era zeitgeist demanded. In fact, Warner Bros. passed on distribution, with one executive saying to me that if only I'd had Santa cut off a kid's fingers and eat them, I'd be a millionaire."

Christmas Evil has since gained a devoted following of counterculture film freaks, including weird movie icon John Waters. Jackson firmly believes that his gruesome and darkly comic character study was decades ahead of its time.

"It makes perfect sense with today's audiences," he says. "It has an underlying attitude about society that people didn't get then. But I don't think it will ever escape people's preconceptions.

"I'm screening it in Philadelphia and do you know what they're running as the second feature: Silent Night, Deadly Night. I was making a movie about the commercialization of Christmas and movies like that are only about killing young girls who give up their virginity."

Christmas Evil screens at The Bloor Cinema on Tuesday at 9:30 p.m. Go to *bloorcinema.com* for more details.

Cineplex | Empire | AMC | Alliance Atlantis | Rainbow Cinemas | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 19 TO THURS., DEC. 25. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For reviews of Bedtime Stories, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, The Spirit and Valkyrie pick up the Wed., Dec. 24, issue of Metro.

DOWNTOWN

BLOOR THEATRE
506 Bloor St., 416-516-2330

13 Months of Sunshine (STC) Fri 9:45
Christmas Evil (STC) Tue 9:30
Fallen Angels (STC) Mon 7
Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Fri 4 Sat 7 Sun 6 Tue 4:30
It's a Wonderful Life (STC) Fri 7
RocknRolla (14A) Sat 9:30 Sun 8 Mon 4:30 Tue 7
The Sound of Music (STC) Sat 3 Sun 2:30

CARLTON
20 Carlton St., 416-598-2309

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri-Tue 1:45-3:50-6:40-9 Wed 1:45-3:50-6:40 Thu 3:50-6:40-9
Canvas (STC) Fri-Tue 1:55-4:30-7:20-10 Wed 1:55-4:30-7:20 Thu 4:30-7:20-10
A Christmas Tale (French w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri-Tue 3:30-6:30-9:30 Wed 3:30-6:30 Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:15-7-9:35 Wed 1:25-4:15-7 Thu 4:15-7-9:35
I Can't Think Straight (14A) Fri-Tue 2-4:45-7:30-9:55 Wed 2-4:45-7:30 Thu 4:45-7:30-9:55
I've Loved You So Long (French w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:45 Wed 1:30-4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-9:45
Religulous (14A) Fri-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:15-9:50 Wed 1:50-4:40-7:15 Thu 4:40-7:15-9:50
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri-Tue 1:20-4-6:50-9:20 Wed 1:20-4-6:50 Thu 4-6:50-9:20
Vicky Cristina Barcelona (14A) Fri-Tue 1:40-3:45-6:45-9:10 Wed 1:40-3:45-6:45 Thu 3:45-6:45-9:10

CUMBERLAND CINEMAS
159 Cumberland Ave., 416-646-0444

Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:15 Wed 1:20-4:20-7:15 Thu 4:20-7:15-10:15
The Reader (14A) Fri-Tue 12:30-2-3:30-5-6:30-8-9:30 Wed 12:30-2-3:30-5-6:30-8 Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4-7-10 No Passes Wed 1-4-7 No Passes Thu 3:45-6:45-10
The Wrestler (14A) Thu 4-7-9:45

SCOTIABANK THEATRE
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600

Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-4:10-6:50-9:20 Thu 1:10-3:45-6:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12-4-8 No Passes Thu 2:15-6:30-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:30-2:15-3:30-5:15-6:30-8-9:30-10:45 No Passes Tue 12:30-2-3:30-5-6:30-8-9:25-10:45 No Passes Wed 12:30-2:15-3:30-5:15-6:30-8-9:30-10:45 No Passes Thu 9:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Wed 1-4-7-10 Thu 12:30-3:20-6:55-9:45
Gran Torino (14A) No Passes Fri 12:40-3:45-6:40-9:40 No Passes Sat 12:40-3:50-6:40-9:40 No Passes Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Mon 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:40 No Passes Tue-Wed 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Thu 12:40-1:40-3:40-4:40-6:40-7:40-9:40-10:40 No Passes Fri-Wed 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 1:10-3:45-6:10-9
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Milk (14A) Fri 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:20 Sat 12:45-3:45-7:10-10:20 Sun-Wed 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:20 Thu 12:20-3:30-7:10:10
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 12:20-3:10-6:45-9:50 Sat 6:45-9:50 Sun 12:20-3:10-6:45-9:50 Mon 12:20-3:10-9:50 Tue-Wed 12:20-3:10-6:45-9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10 Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:45
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Tue 2-4:50-7:50-10:30 Wed 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:30
Twilight (PG) Fri-Wed 12:15-3:20-6:20-9:10 Thu 12:10-3:10-6:20-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri 1:50-5-7:45-10:25 Sat 7-9:45 Sun 1:50-5-7:45-10:45 Mon-Wed 1:50-5-7:45-10:25

MARKET SQUARE
80 Front St., 416-494-9371

Bedtime Stories (G) Thu 5-7:15-9:30
Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-2:40-4:50-7
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Thu 4:30-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri 1:15-3:50-6:55-9:20-11:35 Sat-Tue 1:15-3:50-6:55-9:20 Wed 1:15-3:50-6:55
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 1-3:10-5:15-7:25-9:25-11:20 Sat-Tue 1-3:10-5:15-7:25-9:25 Wed 1-3:10-5:15-7:25
Marley & Me (PG) Thu 3:50-6:45-9:15
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 9:10-11:30 Sat-Tue 9:10
Seven Pounds (14A) Fri 1:10-4-6:50-9:40-12:10 Sat-Tue 1:10-4-6:50-9:40 Wed 1:10-4-6:50 Thu 4-6:50-9:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Sat 12:20-2:30-4:45-7-9 Sun-Mon 2:30-4:45-9 Tue 12:20-2:30-4:45-7-9 Wed 2:30-4:45 Thu 4:45-7-9 Sun-Mon 12:20-7 Wed 12:20-7
Yes Man (PG) Fri 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:35-11:50 Sat-Tue 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:35 Wed 1:20-4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-9:35

THE ROYAL
608 College St., 416-466-4400

Ballast (14A) Tue 9:15
Let the Right One In (14A) Tue 7
Toronto Stories (STC) Fri-Sat 7 Sun-Mon 9:15
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Sat 9 Sun-Mon 7

VARSITY
55 Bloor St. W., 416-961-6304

Australia (PG) Fri-Wed 1-4:30-8 Thu 1-5-9
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-4:30-8:30 No Passes Thu 12:45-4:45-8:45
Doubt (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:20 Fri 4:25-7:15-9:55 Sat-Thu 1:05-4:25-7:15-9:55
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-12:40-3:10-4-6:40-7:10-9:40-10:15 Mon 12:10-12:40-3:10-4-6:40-9:40-10:15 Tue-Wed 12:10-12:40-3:10-4-6:40-7:10-9:40-10:15 Thu 12:10-3:10-6:40-9:50
Milk (14A) Fri-Wed 12-12:20-3:20-3:50-6:20-7-9:50-10:20 Thu 12-12:20-3:20-3:50-6:20-7-9:40-10 Fri 3:35-6:45-9:35 Sat-Wed 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:30 Thu 12:40-3:30-6:50-9:30 Fri 4:05-6:35-9:15 Sat-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:35-9:15
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:10 Fri 3:15-6:25-9:05 Sat-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:25-9:05

CANADA SQUARE
2200 Yonge St., 416-646-0444

Australia (PG) Thu 4:20-8
Bolt (PG) Thu 4:30-7:10-9:40
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri 4:20-7:10-9:40 Sat-Tue 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:40 Wed 1:30-4:20-7:10
Changeling (14A) Fri 3:50-7:10:05 Sat-Tue 12:40-3:50-7:10:05 Wed 12:40-3:50-7
I've Loved You So Long (French w/e.s.t.) (14A) Fri 4:10-6:50-9:30 Sat-Tue 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:30 Wed 1:20-4:10-6:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Thu 4-6:50-9:10
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 4-6:40-9:20 Sat-Tue 1:10-4-6:40-9:20 Wed 1:10-4-6:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Thu 4:10-7-9:30
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri 3:40-6:30-9:10 Sat-Tue 1-3:40-6:30-9:10 Wed 1-3:40-6:30
Role Models (14A) Fri 4:30-7:20-9:50 Sat-Tue 1:40-4:30-7:20-9:50 Wed 1:40-4:30-7:20
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:40-7:20-10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 2:50-5:10-7:30-10 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-10 No Passes Wed 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30 No Passes Thu 5:10-7:30-9:50
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 4:40-7:40-10:10 Sat-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:40-10:10 Wed 1:50-4:40-7:40 Thu 3:50-6:40-9:20
Twilight (PG) Thu 3:40-6:30-9:25

MT. PLEASANT THEATRE
675 Mt.Pleasant Rd., 416-489-8484

Passchendaele (14A) Fri-Sat 9:30 Sun 7 Tue 6:45
Tell No One (14A) Fri-Sat 6:45 Sun 4:05 Tue 8:50

REGENT THEATRE
551 Mt.Pleasant Rd., 416-480-9884

The Duchess (14A) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 4:30 Tue 7
JCVD (14A) Fri-Sat 9:10 Sun 7 Tue 9

YONGE-EGLINTON CENTRE
2300 Yonge St., 416-544-1236

Australia (PG) Fri 12:30-4:20-8 Sat 4:20-8 Sun-Wed 12:30-4:20-8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 1:50-4:30-7:05-9:40
Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 1:50-4:40-7:10-9:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-4:20-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:40-4:30-7:20-9:45-10:10 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:10
Doubt (PG) Thu 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:10-7:30-10 Thu 1:30-4:05-7:20-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 1:05-3:30-6:40 Sat 3:30-6:40 Sun-Wed 1:05-3:30-6:40
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 1:20-4:15-7:40-10:30
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:15-7:40-10:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:40-3:50-7:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:50-7:15-10:20
Twilight (PG) Fri 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:50 Sat 12:50-6:50-9:50 Sun-Wed 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:50
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:50-3:40-7:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10

YONGE & DUNDAS 24
10 Dundas St East, 416-977-2642

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 10:35-1:05-2:05-4:30-5:30-8-9 Mon-Wed 1:05-2:05-4:30-5:30-8-9 Thu 10:30-2:30-6:15-9:45
Bedtime Stories (G) Special Engagement Thu 10:45-11:45-12:15-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:45-4:05-4:15-5:15-6:15-6:45-7:15-7:45-8:45-9:15-9:45-10:15-11
Burn After Reading (14A) Fri-Wed 12:05-2:20-4:35-7:05-9:35
Changeling (14A) Fri-Wed 1:20-7
Doubt (PG) Thu 10:30-11:30-1:15-2:15-4-5-6:45-7:45-9:25-10:25
Flash of Genius (PG) Tue-Wed 2:35-5:05
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 11-12-12:45-1:30-2:30-3:15-3:45-5-5:30-6-7:15-7:45-8:15-9:30-10-10:30 Mon-Wed 12-12:45-1:30-2:30-3:15-3:45-5-5:30-6-7:15-7:45-8:15-9:30-10-10:30 Thu 11-12-1:30-2:40-3:40-5-6-7:30-8:15-9:45-10:30
Ghajini (STC) Thu 10:45-2:45-6:30-10:15
JCVD (14A) Fri-Sun 11:30-2-5:30-8-10:15 Mon-Wed 2-5:30-8-10:15 Thu 11:30-2-5:30-8-10:15
Let the Right One In (14A) Fri-Mon 2:35-7:45 Tue-Wed 7:45
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Sun 10:45-1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Sun 10:45-1:25-4:45-7:40-10:45 Mon-Wed 1:25-4:45-7:40-10:45
RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Sun 10:40-4:25-10:05 Mon-Wed 4:25-10:04
Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-5:10-7:55-10:35
Seven Pounds (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:40-11:20-12-12:40-1:40-2:20-3-3:40-4:40-5:20-6-6:40-7:40-8:20-9-9:40-10:40-11:10 Special Engagement Mon-Tue 12-12:40-1:40-2:20-3-3:40-4:40-5:20-6-6:40-7:40-8:20-9-9:40-10:40-11:10 Special Engagement Wed 12-12:40-1:40-2:20-3-3:40-4:40-5:20-6-6:40-7:40-8:20-9-9:40-10:40 Special Engagement Thu 10:40-11:20-12-12:40-1:40-2:20-3-3:40-4:40-5:20-6-6:40-7:40-8:20-9-9:40-10:40-11:10
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Sun 10:30-11:15-1:20-2:20-4:05-5:05-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:40 Mon-Wed 1:20-2:20-4:05-5:05-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:40 Thu 11:15-1:20-2:20-4:05-5:05-6:50-7:50-9:40-10:40
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri-Sun 11:45-5:05-10:25 Mon 5:05-10:25 Tue-Wed 10:25
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:10-12:20-1:40-2:40-4:05-5:05-6:25-7:25-9-10 Mon-Wed 12:20-1:40-2:40-4:05-5:05-6:25-7:25-9-10 Special Engagement Thu 11:10-12:20-1:40-2:40-4:05-5:05-6:25-7:25-9-10
Yes Man (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 10:30-11:15-12-12:45-1:15-2-2:45-3:30-4-4:45-5:30-6-6:45-7:30-8:15-8:45-9:30-10:15-10:45-11:15 Special Engagement Mon-Tue 12-12:45-1:15-2-2:45-3:30-4-4:45-5:30-6-6:45-7:30-8:15-8:45-9:30-10:15-10:45-11:15 Special Engagement Wed 12-12:45-1:15-2-2:45-3:30-4-4:45-5:30-6-6:45-7:30-8:15-8:45-9:30-10:15-10:45 Thu 10:30-11:15-12-12:45-1:15-2-2:45-3:30-4-4:45-5:30-6-6:45-7:30-8:15-8:45-9:30-10:15-10:45-11:15

WEST END

ALBION CINEMAS
1530 Albion Rd., 416-742-3456

Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Wed 11:45-3-6:30-10 Thu 11:30-2:45-6:15-9:45
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri 2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30 Sat 12-2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30 Sun 12-2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15 Mon-Tue 3:45-5:45-7:15-9:15 Wed-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45

QUEENSWAY
1025 The Queensway, 416-503-0424

Australia (PG) Fri-Wed 12:15-4:15-8:10 Thu 8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:45-3:50-7-9:45
Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:15 Thu 12:20-3:45-6:45-9:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 2:15-6:30-10:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:55-1:30-3:55-4:40-6:55-7:40-9:50-10:40 No Passes Thu 2-5-7:50-10:45
Doubt (PG) Thu 1:30-4:15-7:15-10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:05-6:10-8:50 Thu 1:10-3:35-6:20-9
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:35-7:45-10:45 Thu 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:55
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:20 Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Milk (14A) Fri-Wed 12:05-3:10-6:20-9:35 Thu 1:15-4:30-7:35-10:35
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 1:25-4:25-7:05-10:05 Sat 7:05-10:05 Sun-Wed 1:25-4:25-7:05-10:05
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Wed 12:35-3:35-6:30-9:25 Thu 1:50-4:50-7:40-10:25
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:25-6:15-9
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:20-3:30-6:50-10:10 No Passes Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Wed 12:10-3:15-6:35-9:55 Thu 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:40
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:10-3:50-6:45-9:30 No Passes Thu 12:10-3:15-6:35-9:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Wed 12:25-3:45-7:10-10:25
Twilight (PG) Fri-Wed 1:15-4:20-7:30-10:35 Thu 12-3-6:10-9:20
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1-1:35-4-4:30-7-7:35-10-10:30 No Passes Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:50

WOODBINE CENTRE
500 Rexdale Blvd., 416-213-1998

Bedtime Stories (G) Thu 3:30-7:15-9:25
Bolt (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:15 Wed 12:30-2:40-4:55-7:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Thu 4:30-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:10-7-9:30 Wed 1:20-4:10-7 Thu 4:10-7-9:30
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Tue 12:55-3:10-5:20-7:30-9:40 Wed 12:55-3:10-5:20-7:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 12:40-2:50-5
Marley & Me (PG) Thu 3:40-7:05-9:40
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Tue 7:05-9:10 Wed 7:05
Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Tue 1-3:50-6:45-9:35 Wed 1-3:50-6:45 Thu 3:50-6:45-9:35
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:05-6:55-9:15
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Tue 12:35-2:45-5-7:05-9:10 Wed 12:35-2:45-5-7:05
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:25 Wed 12:45-3:45-6:50
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:45-6:50-9:25
Yes Man (PG) Fri-Tue 1:15-3:55-6:55-9:20 Wed 1:15-3:55-6:55 Thu 3:55-6:55-9:20

EAST END

BEACH CINEMAS
1651 Queen St. E., 416-699-5971

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:10-6:50-9:30
Bolt (PG) Fri-Sat 4:20-6:50-9:15 Sun-Tue 1:30-4:20-6:50-9:15 Wed 1:30-4:20-6:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:20-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 4:30-7:15-9:50 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:45-4:30-7:15-9:50 No Passes Wed 1:45-4:30-7:15 No Passes Thu 4:30-7:15-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 3:45-6:30-9 Sat-Tue 1:20-3:45-6:30-9 Wed 1:20-3:45-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:45-6:40-9:40
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 3:30-6:40-9:30 Sat 1:10-6:40-9:30 Sun-Tue 1:10-3:30-6:40-9:30 Wed 1:10-3:30-6:40
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 4-7-10 No Passes Sat-Tue 1-4-7-10 No Passes Wed 1-4-7 No Passes Thu 4-7-10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri 4:45-7:30-10:10 No Passes Sat 1:20-4:10-7:30-10:10 No Passes Sun-Tue 2-4:45-7:30-10:10 No Passes Wed 2-4:45-7:30 No Passes Thu 4:45-7:30-10:10

FOX THEATRE
2236 Queen St. E., 416-691-7330

Listings not available at press time.

NORTH YORK

SHEPPARD GRANDE
4861 Yonge St., 416-590-9974

Australia (PG) Fri 4-7:45 Sat-Wed 12:35-4-7:45
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 1:30-4-6:45-9:15
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri 3:45-6:30-9:15 Sat 6:30-9:15 Sun-Tue 1:10-3:45-6:30-9:15 Wed 1:10-3:45-6:30
Changeling (14A) Fri 4:10-7:15-10:15 Sat 7:15-10:15 Sun-Tue 12:45-4:10-7:15-10:15 Wed 12:45-4:10-7:15
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 1-4:45
Doubt (PG) Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:45
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 1:20-4:10-7-10
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Milk (14A) Fri 3:50-7-9:55 Sat-Tue 1-3:50-7-9:55 Wed 1-3:50-7 Thu 1:25-4:20-7:20-10:10
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri 5-8:45 Sat-Tue 1:30-5-8:45 Wed 1:30-5 Thu 1:15-5-8:45
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 3:30-7:10-10:20 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:30-3:30-7:10-10:20 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:30-7:10 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-7:10-10:20
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 3:30-4:20-6:40-7:20-9:30-10:10 Sat-Tue 12:40-1:20-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:20-9:30-10:10 Wed 12:40-1:20-3:30-4:20-6:40-7:20 Thu 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 3:20-6:20-9:40 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:50-3:20-6:20-9:40 No Passes Wed 12:50-3:20-6:20 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:20-6:20-9:40
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 4:30-7:30-10 Sat 7:30-10 Sun-Tue 1:50-4:30-7:30-10 Wed 1:50-4:30-7:30
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:30

EMPRESS WALK
5095 Yonge St., 416-223-9550

Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 4:15-7-9:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Tue 1:15-4:15-7-9:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed 1:15-3:50-6:25-9:05 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Thu 1:45-4:25-7
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:25-5:15-7:20-8:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 1:25-2:15-4:25-5:15-7:20-8:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:20-2:15-3:55-5:15-6:40-7:50-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:50-4:40-7:20-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:40-5:30-6:50-8:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 1:40-2:30-4:40-5:30-6:50-8:10-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:10-3:45-6-8:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:40-4:10-6:40-9:20
Frost/Nixon (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:30-2:15-4:20-5:10-7:15-8:10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:10-6:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 1:10-4:10-6:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1-3:25-6:05
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 8:20
Quantum of Solace (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:30-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:25-4-6:35-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 2:10-4:45-7:40-10:15
The Reader (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:45-3:35-6:30-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:10
The Spirit (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 2-4:50-7:30-10:20
Twilight (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 1-4-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:50-3:30-6:10-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 9:40
Yes Man (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:20-5-7:15-8-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Tue 1:20-2-4:20-5-7:15-8-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 1:05-2-3:40-5-6:30-7:45-9 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-2:20-4-5-6:50-7:45-9:30-10:30

SILVERCITY YORKDALE 6
3401 Dufferin St., 416-444-3456

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 1:15-4:10-7-9:50
Bolt (PG) Fri-Tue 12:55-3:45-6:50-9:40 Wed 12:55-3:45-6:50 Thu 1-3:50-6:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:40-4:40-8:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4-7:30-10:20
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-6:50-9:30
Frost/Nixon (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:40-4:50-7:45-10:25 Wed 1:40-4:50-7:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:50-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:15 Wed 1:10-4:10-7:20 Thu 9:30
Role Models (14A) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:50-7:45-10:25 Wed 1:40-4:50-7:45
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-3:40-7:10:20 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:40-7 No Passes Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:30
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-10:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Tue 1-4-7:10-10 Wed 1-4-7:10
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:50 Wed 12:30-3:30-6:40 Thu 12:15-3:15-6:20-9:15
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 No Passes Wed 1:15-4:15-7:15 No Passes Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-10:10

SILVERCITY FAIRVIEW
1800 Sheppard Ave. E., 416-644-7746

Bolt (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:50-7:20-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12:40-4:40-8:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7:30-10:20
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-6:50-9:30

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Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 19 TO THURS., DEC. 25. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Wed 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-7:10:10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:10-4:10-7:40-10:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:10-4:10-6:45-9:20 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:30-6:30-9
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-6:40-9:40
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:10-10

SCARBOROUGH

COLISEUM SCARBOROUGH
300 Borough Dr., 416-290-5217

Bolt (PG) Fri-Tue 12-2:25-4:50-7:20-9:45 Wed 12-2:25-4:50-7:20 Thu 4:50-7:20-9:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 3:50-4:40-7:40-8:30
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:30-6:55-9:55 Wed 12:40-3:30-6:55 Thu 3:30-6:55-9:55
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Tue 3:40-9:15 Wed 3:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 12:20-6:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30 No Passes Wed 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30 No Passes Thu 3:40-4:30-7:30-9:40-10:30
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4-7-10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:25-3:25-6:10-9:10 No Passes Wed 12:25-3:25-6:10 No Passes Thu 3:25-6:10-9:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:40 Wed 12:50-3:50-6:40
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Wed 1:15-4:15-7:15 Thu 4:15-7:15-10:15
Vaaranam Aayiram (in Tamil) (14A) Fri 2:15-6:05-10:05 Sat 6:05-10:05 Sun-Tue 2:15-6:05-10:05 Wed 2:15-6:05
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:20-7:20-10:20
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:15-12:45-3:15-3:45-6:20-6:50-9:20-9:50 No Passes Wed 12:15-12:45-3:15-3:45-6:20-6:50 No Passes Thu 3:45-6:20-6:50-9:50

EGLINTON TOWN CENTRE
1901 Eglinton Ave. E., 416-752-4494

Australia (PG) Fri-Wed 12:40-4:50-8:45
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:20-3:10-6:50-9:45
Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:35 Thu 12:25-3:05
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 1-2-4:50-6-8:45-10
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:05-1:05-3:45-4:45-6:35-7:35-9:20-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:25-4:20-7:40-10:30
Doubt (PG) Thu 12:40-3:25-6:40-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-3-6:20-8:50 Thu 12:10-2:55-7:05-9:35
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 12:20-2:50
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:15-1:15-3:15-4:15-7:25-10:20
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Wed 6:30-9:05
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20-10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Wed 12:25-3:20-6:50-9:40 Thu 1:10-4-7-9:55
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 12:50-3:50-7-9:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-1-3:40-4-6:45-7:15-9:50-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:50-6:30-7:10-9:40-10:25
The Spirit (14A) Thu 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:15
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 12-2:40-6:15-8:55 No Passes Thu 12:05-2:40-6:35-9:15
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:15-7:10-10:05
Twilight (PG) Fri-Wed 12:35-3:35-6:25-9:15 Thu 6:20-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:35-3:40-6:55-10:05
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:15-1:15-3:10-4:10-6:40-7:40-9:25-10:30 No Passes Thu 12-12:45-2:45-3:30-6:15-7:15-9:10-10:10

401 & MORNINGSIDE
785 Milner Ave., 416-281-2226

Australia (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15-4:25-8 Wed 2-6:30
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4-6:50-9:25
Bolt (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-4-6:50-9:15 Wed 1:30-4-6:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:15-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:35-1:15-3:15-4:35-6:25-7:20-9:30-10:20 No Passes Wed 12:35-1:15-3:15-4:35-6:25-7:20 No Passes Thu 4:40-7:30-10:15
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Tue 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:25 Wed 1:45-4:45-7:45 Thu 4:50-7:50-10:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Tue 12:10-2:30-4:55-7:10-9:20 Wed 12:10-2:30-4:55-7:10 Thu 2:15-4:25
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:15-6:15-9:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Tue 1-3:40-6:40-9:40 Wed 1-3:40-6:40 Thu 6:40-9:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:50-3:50-7:10 No Passes Wed 12:50-3:50-7 No Passes Thu 3:25-7:10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 2:45-7:15-10:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:25-9:45 No Passes Wed 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:25 No Passes Thu 2:30-5-7:20-9:40
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:30-6:15-9 Wed 12:40-3:30-6:15
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3-6:30-9:50
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:20-4:15-7:35-10:15 No Passes Wed 1:20-4:15-7:35 No Passes Thu 3:45-7:40-10:20

KENNEDY COMMONS 20
33 William Kitchen Rd., 416-335-5323

Australia (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 3-6:25-9:50 SDDS Digital Sat-Tue 11:35-3-6:25-9:50
Body of Lies (14A) Fri 2-4:55-7:35-10:20 Sat-Tue 11:10-2-4:55-7:35-10:20
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri-Tue 6:10-8:25-10:40
Changeling (14A) Fri 4-7:05-10:05 Sat-Tue 12:55-4-7:05-10:05
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Special Engagement Fri 2:15-3-4-4:45-5:30-6:30-7:15-8-9-9:45-10:30 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11-11:45-12:30-1:30-2:15-3-4-4:45-5:30-6:30-7:15-8-9-9:45-10:30 Mon-Tue 11-11:45-12:30-1:30-2:15-3-4-4:45-5:30-6:30-7:15-8-9-9:45-10:30
The Duchess (14A) Fri 2:25-4:55-7:25-10 Sat-Tue 11:55-2:25-4:55-7:25-10
Frost/Nixon (PG) Special Engagement Fri 2-4:45-7:30-10:15 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:15-2-4:45-7:30-10:15 Mon-Tue 11:15-2-4:45-7:30-10:15
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 2:20-4:50-7:15-10 Sat-Tue 11:35-2:20-4:50-7:15-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 4 Sat-Tue 11:40-1:50-4
Milk (14A) Special Engagement Fri 2:10-5-7:45-10:30 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:20-2:10-5-7:45-10:30 Mon-Tue 11:20-2:10-5-7:45-10:30
Passchendaele (14A) Fri 2:20-4:50-7:20-10:05 Sat-Tue 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:20-10:05
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri 2:20-4:50-7:20-10:15 Sat-Tue 11:55-2:20-4:50-7:20-10:15
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (STC) Special Engagement Fri 3:05-6:25-9:50 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:30-3:05-6:25-9:50 Mon-Tue 11:30-3:05-6:25-9:50
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri 4:25-7:05-9:55 Sat-Tue 11:05-1:45-4:25-7:05-9:55
RocknRolla (14A) Fri 4:15-7-9:40 Sat-Tue 11:10-1:40-4:15-7-9:40
The Secret Life of Bees (14A) Fri 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40 Sat-Tue 11:40-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Special Engagement Fri 2:15-4:15-5-7-7:45-9:45-10:35 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:30-1:30-2:15-4:15-5-7-7:45-9:45-10:35 Mon-Tue 11:30-1:30-2:15-4:15-5-7-7:45-9:45-10:35
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri 3:35-5:55-8:20-10:40 Sat-Tue 11-1:15-3:35-5:55-8:20-10:40

WOODSIDE CINEMAS
1571 Sandhurst Circle, 416-299-3456

Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Tue 8:30 Wed 11:45-3-6:30-10 Thu 11:30-2:45-6:15-9:45
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri 2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30 Sat-Sun 12-2:15-3:30-5:45-7-9:15-10:30 Mon 3:45-5:45-7:15-9:15 Tue 2:30-4:30-5:45-9:15 Wed-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45

PEEL REGION

CINÉ STARZ
377 Burnhamthorpe Rd. E., 905-290-2401

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:30-1:45-3:20-4:30-6:30-7:20-9:15-10
Bolt (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-1:30-3:20-4:40-6:30-7:30-9:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:40-7:30-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:25
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 12-3-6:20-9 Thu 12-3
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 1:50-4:30-7-9:50 Sat 7-9:50 Sun-Wed 1:50-4:30-7-9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:10
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 1:45-4:20-7:20-10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:50-4:45-6:20-8-9:10-10:45
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-9:20
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:10-10:15
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-1:40-3:40-4:50-6:40-7:40-9:40-10:30

COLISEUM 10
309 Rathburn Rd., 905-275-3456

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 12:30-1:45-3:20-4:30-6:30-7:20-9:15-10
Bolt (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-1:30-3:20-4:40-6:30-7:30-9:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:40-7:30-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 2-5-7:50-10:25
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 12-3-6:20-9 Thu 12-3
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 1:50-4:30-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:10
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 1:45-4:20-7:20-10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:50-4:45-6:20-8-9:10-10:45
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-9:20
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:10-10:15
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-1:40-3:40-4:50-6:40-7:40-9:40-10:30

COURTNEY PARK 16
110 Courtney Park Dr., 905-362-1210

Australia (PG) Fri 2:30-6-9:30 Sat-Sun 11-2:30-6-9:30 Mon-Wed 2:30-6-9:30
Bedtime Stories (G) Special Engagement Thu 11:10-1:45-4:25-7:05-9:45
Bolt (PG) Fri 1:45-4:20-6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 11:20-1:45-4:20-6:50-9:10 Mon-Wed 1:45-4:20-6:50-9:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Special Engagement Thu 11:15-11:40-2:50-3:20-6:30-7:10:10-10:40
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Special Engagement Fri 1:35-2:25-4:15-5-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:10 Special Engagement Sat 11:10-12-1:35-2:25-4:15-5-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:10 Special Engagement Sun 12-2:25-4:15-5-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:10 Mon 1:35-2:25-4:15-5-7:40-10:10 Tue 1:35-2:25-5-7:40-10:10 Wed 1:35-2:25-4:15-5-7:10-7:40-9:50-10:10 Thu 11:05-1:35-4:15-6:55-9:35
Doubt (PG) Thu 11:20-2-4:35-7:15-10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 2:45-5:05-7:25-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:25-9:40 Mon-Wed 2:45-5:05-7:25-9:40 Thu 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:35-9:55
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 2:15-4:30-6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 11:55-2:15-4:30-6:45-9:15 Mon-Tue 2:15-4:30-6:45 Wed 2:15-4:30-6:45-9:15
Marley & Me (PG) Special Engagement Thu 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Special Engagement Fri 2:10-4:50-7:20-9:45 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:40-2:10-4:50-7:20-9:45 Mon-Wed 2:10-4:50-7:20-9:45
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Mon-Wed 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Thu 11:05-1:35-4:15-6:55-9:35
Role Models (14A) Fri 2:55-5:20-7:50-10:25 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:50-10:25 Mon-Wed 2:55-5:20-7:50-10:25
Seven Pounds (14A) Special Engagement Fri 1:05-1:55-4:05-4:40-7:7:30-10-10:30 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:05-1:05-1:55-4:05-4:40-7:7:30-10-10:30 Special Engagement Mon-Wed 1:05-1:55-4:05-4:40-7:7:30-10-10:30 Special Engagement Thu 1:10-1:30-4:10-4:30-7:10-7:40-10:15-10:45
The Spirit (14A) Special Engagement Thu 11:35-2:15-5-7:50-10:35
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 2-4:35-6:55-9:20 Sat-Sun 11:30-2-4:35-6:55-9:20 Special Engagement Mon-Wed 2-4:35-6:55-9:20 Special Engagement Thu 11:45-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:40
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 2:55-5:20-7:50-10:25 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:50-10:25 Mon-Wed 2:55-5:20-7:50-10:25
Twilight (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:35-7:15-10:05 Thu 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:20
Valkyrie (PG) Special Engagement Thu 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:25
Yes Man (PG) Special Engagement Fri 1:50-2:20-4:25-4:55-7:05-7:35-9:45-10:15 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:15-11:50-1:50-2:20-4:25-4:55-7:05-7:35-9:45-10:15 Special Engagement Mon-Wed 1:50-2:20-4:25-4:55-7:05-7:35-9:45-10:15 Special Engagement Thu 11:20-11:50-2-2:30-4:35-5:05-7:15-7:45-10-10:30

GATEWAY 6 BRAMPTON
5 Gateway Blvd., 416-444-3456

Listings unavailable at press time.

ORION GATE GRANDE
20 Biscayne Cr., 905-455-1590

Australia (PG) Fri 3:55-7:35 Sat-Tue 12:25-3:55-7:35 Wed 12:25-3:55
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4-6:45-9:35
Bolt (PG) Fri 3:30-6:45-9:25 Sat-Tue 1-3:30-6:45-9:25 Wed 1-3:30-6:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:15-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 4:35-7:25-10 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:25-4:35-7:25-10 No Passes Wed 1:25-4:35-7:25 No Passes Thu 4:40-7:40-10:10
Doubt (PG) Thu 3:40-7:20-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:40 Sat-Tue 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:40 Wed 12:55-3:50-6:50 Thu 3:45-6:50-9:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 3:45-6:25-9:10 Sat-Tue 12:50-3:45-6:25-9:10 Wed 12:50-3:45-6:25
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:55-7:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 4:25-7:05-9:35 Sat-Tue 1:35-4:25-7:05-9:35 Wed 1:35-4:25-7:05
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 4:05-7-9:55 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:10-4:05-7-9:55 No Passes Wed 1:10-4:05-7 No Passes Thu 4:05-7:05-9:55
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 3:55-6:40-9:20 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:35-3:55-6:40-9:20 No Passes Wed 12:35-3:55-6:40 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:40-9:20
Twilight (PG) Fri 4:10-7:20-10:10 Sat-Tue 12:45-4:10-7:20-10:10 Wed 12:45-4:10-7:20
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:30-7:30-10:20
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri 4:20-7:15-10:15 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:15-10:15 No Passes Wed 1:20-4:20-7:15 No Passes Thu 4:20-7:15-10:15

SILVERCITY MISSISSAUGA
3055 Vega Blvd., 905-569-3373

Australia (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:50-9 Wed 1:10-4:50
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 3:50-4:30-6:50-7:25-9:25-10
Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:30 Thu 3:40 Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:50 Wed 1:30-4:30-7:10
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri-Tue 1:50-4:10-7:40-10 Wed 1:50-4:10-7:40
Doubt (PG) Thu 4:10-7:10-9:50
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Tue 2-5-6:50-7:50-9:20-10:10 Wed 2-5-6:50-7:50 Thu 5-7:50-10:10
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:15 Wed 1:40-4:40-7:30 Thu 4:40-7:30-10:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:50-6:30-9:10 Wed 12:50-3:50-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:30-4:50-6:30-7:40-9:20-10:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:40-1:20-3:40-4:20-6:40-7:20-9:40-10:20 No Passes Wed 12:40-1:20-3:40-4:20-6:40-7:20 No Passes Thu 4:20-6:40-7:20-9:40-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4-7-9:30 No Passes Wed 1-4-7 No Passes Thu 4-7-9:30

NORTH

5 DRIVE-IN
2331 Ninth Line, 905-257-8272

Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 7:40 Tue 7:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 7:30 Tue 7:30
Pride and Glory (14A) Fri-Sun 9:25 Tue 9:25
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Sun 9:35 Tue 9:35
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 7:35 Tue 7:35
Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 9:10 Tue 9:10

AURORA CINEMAS
15460 Bayview Ave., 905-841-1789

Australia (PG) Fri 4:15-8 Sat-Tue 12:30-4:15-8 Wed 2:15-6
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4-6:50-9:30
Bolt (PG) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:30 Sat-Tue 1-3:45-6:45-9:30 Wed 1-3:45-6:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 6:30-10:20
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 4:45-7:30-10:15 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:45-4:45-7:30-10:15 No Passes Wed 1:45-4:45-7:30 No Passes Thu 3:50-6:45-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 4:30-7:40-10:10 Sat-Tue 2-4:30-7:40-10:10 Wed 2-4:30-7:40 Thu 4:40-7:30-9:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 3:30-6:30-9 Sat-Tue 1:10-3:30-6:30-9 Wed 1:10-3:30-6:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:30-6:40-9:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 4:20-7:20-10 Sat-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-10 Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Wed 12:50-4-7:10 No Passes Thu 3:40-7-10:10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:30-7:40-10:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 4:10-6:40-9:15 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:15 No Passes Wed 1:30-4:10-6:40 No Passes Thu 3:45-6:20-9
Twilight (PG) Fri 3:50-7-9:50 Sat-Tue 12:45-3:50-7-9:50 Wed 12:45-3:50-7
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:10-7:20-10:15
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-1:20-3:30-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:40 No Passes Thu 12:40-1:30-3:40-4:30-6:45-7:30-9:40-10:30
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri 1:50-4:50-8:10-10:45 Sat 8:10-10:45 Sun-Wed 1:50-4:50-8:10-10:45

ELGIN MILLS 10
10909 Yonge St., 905-770-6998

Australia (PG) Fri 4:30-8 Sat-Wed 12:50-4:30-8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 3:20-7-9:40
Bolt (PG) Fri 3:10-7-9:30 Sat-Tue 12:20-3:10-7-9:30 Wed 12:20-3:10-7 Thu 3:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:20-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 3:20-7:20-10:10 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:40-3:20-7:20-10:10 No Passes Wed 12:40-3:20-7:20 Thu 4:10-7:40-10:20
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 3:40-7:40-10 Sat-Tue 1:20-3:40-7:40-10 Wed 1:20-3:40-7:40 Thu 6:50-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 3:50 Sat-Wed 12-3:50
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:40-6:40-9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 4:10-7:50-10:30 Sat-Tue 1:30-4:10-7:50-10:30 Wed 1:30-4:10-7:50
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 4:20-7:30-10:40 No Passes Sat-Tue 1-4:20-7:30-10:40 No Passes Wed 1-4:20-7:30 No Passes Thu 3:30-7:20-10:30
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:30-7:50-10:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri 3-6:30-9:20 Sat-Tue 12:10-3-6:30-9:20 Wed 12:10-3-6:30 Thu 3-6:30-9:20
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Tue 6:40-9:40 Wed 6:40
Twilight (PG) Fri 4-6:50-9:50 Sat-Tue 1:10-4-6:50-9:50 Wed 1:10-4-6:50
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:50-7:10-10

SMALL MOUSE. BIG DREAMS.

The Tale of Despereaux

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A LARGER THAN LIFE PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH FRAMESTORE ANIMATION "THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX" MATTHEW BRODERICK ROBBIE COLTRANE DUSTIN HOFFMAN RICHARD JENKINS KEVIN KLINE FRANK LANGELLA WILLIAM H. MACY TRACEY ULLMAN EMMA WATSON AND SIGOURNEY WEAVER MUSIC BY WILLIAM ROSS

BASED ON THE BOOK BY KATE DiCAMILLO SCREEN STORY BY WILL McROBB & CHRIS VISCARDI SCREENPLAY BY GARY ROSS PRODUCED BY GARY ROSS ALLISON THOMAS DIRECTED BY SAM FELL ROB STEVENHAGEN

SOUNDTRACK ON BACK LOT MUSIC and INTRADA

LIVE THE ADVENTURE WITH THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX GAME ON THE NINTENDO DS™ SYSTEM

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Cineplex | Empire | AMC | Alliance Atlantis | Rainbow Cinemas | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 19 TO THURS., DEC. 25. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FIRST MARKHAM PLACE
3275 Hwy 7 E., 905-474-5101

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20
Bolt (PG) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:20 Sat-Tue 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20 Wed 1:50-4:20-6:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 1-4:50-8:50
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 4:30-7:30-10:05 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:05 No Passes Wed 1:40-4:30-7:30 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:05
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 5-7:20-9:30 Sat-Tue 2:10-5-7:20-9:30 Wed 2:10-5-7:20 Thu 2:10-5-7:20-9:30
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 3:20-6:40-8:50 Sat-Tue 1-3:20-6:40-8:50 Wed 1-3:20-6:40
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 1:10-4:10-7-9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 4-7:10-10 Sat-Tue 1:20-4-7:10-10 Wed 1:20-4-7:10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Wed 12:40-3:40-6:40 No Passes Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40
The Spirit (14A) Thu 2-4:40-7:40-10:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 3:50-6:20-9 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:30-3:50-6:20-9 No Passes Wed 1:30-3:50-6:20 No Passes Thu 1:30-3:50-6:20-9
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 4:40-7:40-10:10 Sat-Tue 2-4:40-7:40-10:10 Wed 2-4:40-7:40
Twilight (PG) Fri 4:10-7-9:50 Sat-Tue 1:10-4:10-7-9:50 Wed 1:10-4:10-7
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 1:20-4-7:10-10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri 3:30-6:30-9:10 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:10 No Passes Wed 12:50-3:30-6:30 No Passes Thu 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:10

INTERCHANGE 30
30 Interchange Way, 905-760-1911

Australia (PG) Fri-Sun 11:05-11:30-12:45-2:30-3-4:20-5:50-6:30-7:55-9:15-10 Mon-Tue 2:30-3-4:20-5:50-6:30-7:55-9:15-10 Wed 1:30-2:30-3:15-5-6-6:45
Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:35-9:55 Mon-Tue 2:30-4:55-7:35-9:55 Wed 2:30-4:55-7:35
Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:15-7:15-10 Wed 1:25-4:15-7:15
Bolt (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15-12:30-1:30-3-4:5:15-6:15-8-9-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:30-3-4-5:15-6:15-8-9-10:15 Wed 1:30-3-4-5:15-6:15-8
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (PG) Digital Fri-Sun 12-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 Digital Mon-Tue 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 Digital Wed 2:15-4:45-7:15
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Fri-Sun 12:25-2:45-5:25-7:45-10:05 Mon-Tue 2:45-5:25-7:45-10:05 Wed 2:45-5:25-7:45
Burn After Reading (14A) Fri-Sun 11:55-2:35-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon-Tue 2:35-4:50-7:20-9:50 Wed 2:35-4:50-7:20
The Duchess (14A) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:25-5:05-7:40-10:10 Mon-Tue 2:25-5:05-7:40-10:10 Wed 2:25-5:05-7:40
Lakeview Terrace (14A) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:45 Mon-Tue 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:45 Wed 2:10-4:40-7:10
Milk (14A) Fri-Sun 11-12:30-1:45-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:45-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:15 Wed 1:45-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30
Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:20-4:25-7-9:20 Mon-Tue 2:20-4:25-7-9:20 Wed 2:20-4:25-7
Nights in Rodanthe (PG) Fri-Sun 11:20-1:40-4:05-6:25-9 Mon-Tue 1:40-4:05-6:25-9 Wed 1:40-4:05-6:25
Passchendaele (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:05-9:05 Mon-Tue 3:10-6:05-9:05 Wed 3:10-6:05
Pride and Glory (14A) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:55 Wed 1:25-4:10-6:55
Quarantine (18A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:05-5:20-7:25-9:50 Mon-Tue 3:05-5:20-7:25-9:50 Wed 3:05-5:20-7:25
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Sun 11:10-1:50-4:55-7:40-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:50-4:55-7:40-10:15 Wed 1:50-4:55-7:40
Religulous (14A) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:15-4:35-7:10-9:30 Mon-Tue 2:15-4:35-7:10-9:30 Wed 2:15-4:35-7:10
RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:15-6-9:05 Mon-Tue 3:15-6-9:05 Wed 3:15-6
The Secret Life of Bees (14A) Fri-Sun 11:20-2-4:35-7:30-10:10 Mon-Tue 2-4:35-7:30-10:10 Wed 2-4:35-7:30
Sex Drive (18A) Fri-Sun 11:25-1:55-4:45-7:35-10:05 Mon-Tue 1:55-4:45-7:35-10:05 Wed 1:55-4:45-7:35
Step Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:40-5:10-7:50-10:05 Mon-Tue 2:40-5:10-7:50-10:05 Wed 2:40-5:10-7:50
Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri-Sun 11:15-1:55-4:40-7:25-10:10 Mon-Tue 1:55-4:40-7:25-10:10 Wed 1:55-4:40-7:25
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11-12:15-1:45-2:45-4:15-5-6:45-7:45-9:15-10 Special Engagement Mon-Tue 1:45-2:45-4:15-5-6:45-7:45-9:15-10 Special Engagement Wed 1:45-2:45-4:15-5-6:45-7:45
Vicky Cristina Barcelona (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:05-7:20-9:40 Mon-Tue 2:50-5:05-7:20-9:40 Wed 2:50-5:05-7:20

PROMENADE MALL
1 Promenade Circle, 416-494-9371

Bedtime Stories (G) Thu 1:10-3:15-5:20-7:25-9:20
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Thu 1:30-4:30-8:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Wed 1:15-4:15-7:05-9:25
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-3:15-5:20-7:25-9:20
Marley & Me (PG) Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:25
Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:35
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3-5-7:10-9:10
Twilight (PG) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:15
Yes Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:45-9

SILVERCITY NEWMARKET
18151 Yonge St., 905-953-2792

Australia (PG) Fri-Wed 12-4-8
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:25-7:20-10:20
Bolt (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-4:15-7:15-10:10 Wed 12:40-4:15-7:15 Thu 4:15-7:15-10:10
Changeling (14A) Fri-Tue 11:50-3:10-6:30-9:50 Wed 11:50-3:10-6:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4-5:30-8-9:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-1:30-4:05-4:30-6:55-7:30-9:55-10:20 No Passes Wed 1-1:30-4:05-4:30-6:55-7:30 No Passes Thu 4:05-6:55-9:55
Doubt (PG) Thu 4:35-7:35-10:35
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:35 Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45 Thu 3:45-6:45-9:35
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Tue 11:55-2:20-5:15-8:05-10:30 Wed 11:55-2:20-5:15-8:05
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:20-4:45-6:50-9:50
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 1:45-4:40-7:35-10:35 Sat 7:35-10:35 Sun-Tue 1:45-4:40-7:35-10:35 Wed 1:45-4:40-7:35
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Tue 12:55-3:55-6:40-9:40 Wed 12:55-3:55-6:40 Thu 3:55-6:40-9:40
Role Models (14A) Fri-Tue 2-5:10-8:10-10:45 Wed 2-5:10-8:10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:20-3:50-7:05-10:05 No Passes Wed 12:20-3:50-7:05 No Passes Thu 3:50-7:05-10:05
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:40-7:45-10:45
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:45-2:30-5:20-7:40-10:15 No Passes Wed 11:45-2:30-5:20-7:40 No Passes Thu 5:20-7:40-10:15
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:30 Wed 12:50-3:40-6:50
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15-3:30-6:35-9:45 Wed 12:15-3:30-6:35 Thu 3:30-6:35-9:45
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:40-7:10-10:25
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:10-1:50-4:10-4:45-7:7:50-10-10:40 No Passes Wed 1:10-1:50-4:10-4:45-7:7:50 No Passes Thu 4:10-7:7:50-10-10:40

SILVERCITY RICHMOND HILL
8771 Yonge St., 905-709-3199

Australia (PG) Fri-Wed 1:15-5-9:10
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 11:50-2:30-5:15-8-10:40
Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 1-3:50-7-9:30 Thu 11:30-2-4:40-7:20-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12-2:20-4:20-6:30-8:15-10:30
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:20-2-4:40-6:30-7:05-9:20-9:40 No Passes Thu 1:45-4:50-7:50-10:45
Doubt (PG) Thu 12:50-3:50-6:55-9:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Wed 1:40-4:20-7:20-10 Thu 12:20-3:20-6:20-9
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 1:35-4:05
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:10-3:30-6:40-9:40
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Wed 1:05-4:25-7:40-10:25
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:10 Thu 12:40-3:45-6:45-9:30
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 12:50-7:10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:20-3:30-6:50-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:40-7:10:15
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-3:20-6:10-9 No Passes Thu 11:40-2:10-5-7:40-10:15
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Wed 3:55-9:55
Twilight (PG) Fri-Wed 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:50
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 1-4-6:50-10 No Passes Fri-Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Sat 7:30-10:30

HALTON

SILVERCITY BURLINGTON 8
1250 Brant St., 416-646-0444

Australia (PG) Fri-Tue 12:15-3:45-7:30 Wed 2-6:30
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:25-7:25-10:25
Bolt (PG) Fri-Tue 1:05-4:05-7-9:30 Wed 1:05-4:05-7 Thu 4:05
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:15-6:30-7:15 No Passes Thu 4:15-7:05-10:05
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15 Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30 Thu 4:30-7:30-10:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:20 Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:45-6:45-9:40
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Sat 7:25-10:25 Sun-Tue 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Wed 1:25-4:25-7:25
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4-7-10 Wed 1-4-7 Thu 7-10
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Wed 1-4-7:10 No Passes Thu 4-7:10-10:20
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:40-7:40-10:30
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:40 No Passes Wed 1:10-4:10-6:50 No Passes Thu 4:10-6:50-9:30
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Wed 1:10-4:10-7:10 Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4:15-7:15-10:15
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:10 No Passes Wed 1:20-4:20-7:20 No Passes Thu 4:20-7:20-10:10

SILVERCITY OAKVILLE CINEMAS
3531 Wyecroft Road, 905 827-7173

Australia (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4:30-8 Wed 2-6:30
Bolt (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:10-6:50-9:10 Wed 12:40-3:10-6:50 Thu 3:10-6:50-9:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 3:40-8 No Passes Thu 4:30-9
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:20-4-7:20-9:55 No Passes Wed 1:20-4-7:20 No Passes Thu 4-7:20-9:55
Doubt (PG) Thu 5-7:40-10:20
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:10-7:30-9:40 Wed 1:40-4:10-7:30 Thu 4:10-7:30-9:40 Fri-Tue 2-5-7:40-10:20 Wed 2-5-7:40
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3-6:40-9:30
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12 Sat 12
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:20-7:40-10:15 Wed 1:30-4:20-7:40 Thu 4:20-7:40-10:15 Fri 1-4-6:40-9:40 Sat 6:40-9:40 Sun-Tue 1-4-6:40-9:40 Wed 1-4-6:40
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-3:30-7-10:10 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:30-7 No Passes Thu 3:30-7-10:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:50-3:20-6:55-9:20 No Passes Wed 12:50-3:20-6:55 No Passes Thu 3:20-6:55-9:20
Twilight (PG) Fri 1:50-4:40-7:25-10 Sat 7:25-10 Sun-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:25-10 Wed 1:50-4:40-7:25 Fri 1:30-4:30-7:10-10:10 Sat 1:50-4:40-7:10-10:10 Sun-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:10-10:10 Wed 1:30-4:30-7:10
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 4-6:40-9:40
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:10-3:50-7:10-9:50 No Passes Wed 1:10-3:50-7:10 No Passes Thu 3:50-7:10-9:50

SILVERCITY BRAMPTON
50 Great Lakes, 905-789-6797

Australia (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-5-9
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 1:20-4:10-7-9:45
Bolt (PG) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:25-6:45-9:25 Thu 12:45-3:25-6:45-9:25
Chakk de Phatte (In Punjabi) (PG) Fri-Wed 1:30-4:45-8 Thu 6:10-10:25
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 12-4-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:30-1:40-3:40-4:20-6:50-7:20-9:50-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:40-7:20-10:30
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:20-9:15
Ghajini (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Thu 1:30-5:30-10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Wed 1-3:30-6:10-9 Thu 1-3:30
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 12:30-3:45-7:15-10:15
Metropolitan Opera: Thais (STC) Sat 12
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri 3:50-7:10-10:05 Sat 7:10-10:05 Sun-Wed 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:05
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Wed 1:20-4:10-7-9:45
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10-5:10-9:30
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 1:15-3:45-6:15-9:20
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:55-4-7:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:15-4:20-7:40-10:45
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Thu 12:40-3:40-6:50-9:50
The Spirit (14A) Thu 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3-6:40-9:10
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Wed 1:50-4:40-7:40-10:30
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:40
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 12:50-4:15-7:10-10:20
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:10

WINSTON CHURCHILL
2081 Winston Park Dr. Oakville, 905-829-2009

Changeling (14A) Fri-Tue 12:35-3:45-7:05-10:15 Wed 12:35-3:45-7:05
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Special Engagement Fri 12-1:15-2-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:30-10:15-10:45 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 10:45-11:30-12-1:15-2-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:30-10:15-10:45 Mon-Tue 12-1:15-2-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:30-10:15-10:45 Wed 12-1:15-2-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:30-10:15
Ghajini (STC) Sub-Titled Wed 1:40-4:55-8:45
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 1:35-4:25-7:15-9:55 Sat-Sun 11-1:35-4:25-7:15-9:55 Mon-Tue 1:35-4:25-7:15-9:55
Milk (14A) Fri 1:05-1:45-4:05-4:45-7:05-7:40-10-10:35 Sat-Sun 10:55-1:05-1:45-4:05-4:45-7:05-7:40-10-10:35 Mon-Tue 1:05-1:45-4:05-4:45-7:05-7:40-10-10:35 Wed 1:05-1:45-4:05-4:45-7:05-7:40-10
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:35-9:55 Mon-Wed 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:35-9:55
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Wed 12-2:30-5-7:30-10:10
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 1:30-4:15-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 11:35-12:45-2:15-3:30-5-6:15-7:45-9-10:30 Mon-Tue 12:45-2:15-3:30-5-6:15-7:45-9-10:30 Wed 12:45-2:15-3:30-5-6:15-7:45-9 Fri 12:45-2:15-3:30-5-6:15-7:45-9-10:30 Sat-Sun 11-1:30-4:15-7-9:45 Mon-Tue 1:30-4:15-7-9:45 Wed 1:30-4:15-7
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (STC) Sub-Titled Fri-Wed 2-5:30-9
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05 Sat-Sun 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05 Mon-Wed 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 12:30-3-5:40-8-10:25
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 1-1:40-4-4:40-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Sat-Sun 10:45-1-1:40-4-4:40-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Mon-Tue 1-1:40-4-4:40-7-7:40-9:50-10:30 Wed 1-1:40-4-4:40-7-7:40-9:50
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 1:55-4:20-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 11:25-1:55-4:20-7:10-9:40 Mon-Wed 1:55-4:20-7:10-9:40
Twilight (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:15-6:30-7:15-9:30-10:10 Wed 12:30-1:15-3:30-4:15-6:30-7:15-9:30
Yes Man (PG) Special Engagement Fri 1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10-10:40 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 10:30-11:10-11:50-1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10-10:40 Special Engagement Mon-Tue 1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10-10:40 Special Engagement Wed 1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10

DURHAM

AJAX
248 Kingston Rd. E, 905-426-7772

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 3:30-7:25-9:55
Bolt (PG) Fri 7:15-9:55 Sat-Tue 12:40-4:30-7:15-9:55 Wed 12:40-4:30-7:15
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 3-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 7:05-10 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:50-3:50-7:05-10 No Passes Wed 12:50-3:50-7:05 No Passes Thu 3:50-7:05-10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 6:35-9:15 Sat-Tue 12:55-3:25-6:35-9:15 Wed 12:55-3:25-6:35 Thu 3:25-6:35-9:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 7:25-9:50 Sat-Tue 12:30-2:45-5-7:25-9:50 Wed 12:30-2:45-5-7:25
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 4:10-6:55-9:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 6:50-9:35 Sat-Tue 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:35 Wed 1:20-4:10-6:50
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 7:10-10:10 No Passes Sat-Tue 1-4-7:10-10:10 No Passes Wed 1-4-7:10 No Passes Thu 4-7:10-10:10
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:30-7:15-10:05
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:40 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:20-9:40 No Passes Wed 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:20 No Passes Thu 2:35-4:55-7:20-9:40
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri 7:35-10:15 Sat-Tue 1:10-4:25-7:35-10:15 Wed 1:10-4:25-7:35
Twilight (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:40-9:30 Wed 12:45-3:45-6:40
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:45-6:40-9:30
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri 7-9:45 No Passes Sat-Tue 1:30-4:20-7-9:45 No Passes Wed 1:30-4:20-7 No Passes Thu 4:20-7-9:45

PICKERING 8
1355 Kingston Rd., 416-646-0444

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Thu 4:10-7-9:30
Bolt (PG) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Tue 12:10-4:10-7:10-9:50 Wed 12:10-4:10-7:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Thu 4:15-8
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) No Passes Fri 6:45-9:30 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:30-3:40-6:45-9:30 No Passes Wed 12:30-3:40-6:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat-Tue 1:10-4:20-7:20-9:45 Wed 1:10-4:20-7:20
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Thu 3:40-6:45-9:45
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:10 Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri 7:15-10:15 No Passes Sat-Tue 1-4-7:15-10:15 No Passes Wed 1-4-7:15 No Passes Thu 4-7:15-10:15
The Spirit (14A) Thu 4:20-7:20-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri 7:25-9:55 No Passes Sat-Tue 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:25-9:55 No Passes Wed 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:25 No Passes Thu 4:50-7:25-9:55
Twilight (PG) Fri 7-10 Sat-Tue 1:15-4:15-7-10 Wed 1:15-4:15-7
Valkyrie (PG) Thu 3:50-7:10-10:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:40 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:40 No Passes Wed 12:45-3:30-6:50 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:50-9:40

WHITBY 24
75 Consumers Dr., 905-665-7210

Australia (PG) Fri-Tue 12-3:30-7-8:30-10:20 Wed 12-3:30-7-8:30 Thu 12-3:30-7-10:25
Bedtime Stories (G) Special Engagement Thu 10:30-12-12:45-2:30-3:15-5-5:45-7:30-8:15-10-10:40
Bolt (PG) Fri 1:20-3:30-6:15 Sat-Sun 11-1:20-3:30-6:15 Mon-Wed 1:20-3:30-6:15
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (PG) Digital Fri 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:25 Digital Sat-Sun 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:25-11:45 Digital Mon-Wed 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:25 Digital Thu 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:25
Changeling (14A) Fri-Wed 12:45-4-7-9:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Special Engagement Thu 10:30-12:30-2-4-5:30-7:30-9:15-11
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Special Engagement Fri 12-12:30-1:45-2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15-10:05-10:30 Special Engagement Sat 11:30-12-12:30-1:45-2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15-10:05-10:30 Special Engagement Sun 11:30-12-12:30-1:45-2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15-10:05 Mon-Tue 12-12:30-1:45-2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15-10:05 Wed 12-12:30-1:45-2:30-3-4:15-5-5:30-6:45-7:30-8-9:15 Thu 11:30-1:45-4:15-6:45-8-9:15-10:30
Doubt (PG) Special Engagement Thu 12-2:35-5-7:35-10
Four Christmases (PG) Fri 12:30-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:15-6-7:20-8:20-9:40-10:30 Sat-Sun 11:20-12:30-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:15-6-7:20-8:20-9:40-10:30 Mon-Tue 12:30-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:15-6-7:20-8:20-9:40-10:30 Wed 12:30-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:15-6-7:20-8:20-9:40 Thu 12:30-2:45-5:15-7:20-9:40
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri 1:30-3:40-5:45-8-10:10 Sat-Sun 11:10-1:30-3:40-5:45-8-10:10 Mon-Tue 1:30-3:40-5:45-8-10:10 Wed 1:30-3:40-5:45-8 Thu 11:10-1:30-3:40-5:45
Marley & Me (PG) Special Engagement Thu 10:45-11:45-1:30-2:30-4:15-5:15-7-8-9:45-10:45
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 12-2:50-5:15-7:45-10:10 Mon-Tue 12-2:50-5:15-7:45-10:10 Wed 12-2:50-5:15-7:45-9:45
Punisher: War Zone (18A) Fri-Wed 12:10-4:50-9:45
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri 12:10-2-2:45-4:40-5:30-7:30-8:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 11:15-12:10-2-2:45-4:40-5:30-7:30-8:15-9:50 Mon-Wed 12:10-2-2:45-4:40-5:30-7:30-8:15-9:50 Thu 11:15-2-4:40-7:30-9:50
Role Models (14A) Fri-Wed 12:10-2:20-4:50-7:10-9:30
Seven Pounds (14A) Special Engagement Fri 1:30-2:15-4:10-5-7:10-7:50-10-10:40 Special Engagement Sat 10:45-11:30-1:30-2:15-4:10-5-7:10-7:50-10-10:40 Special Engagement Sun 10:45-11:30-1:30-2:15-4:10-5-7:10-7:50-10 Special Engagement Mon-Tue 1:30-2:15-4:10-5-7:10-7:50-10 Special Engagement Wed 1:30-2:15-4:10-5-7:10-7:50-9:50 Special Engagement Thu 10:45-11:30-1:30-2:15-4:10-5-7:10-7:50-10-10:40
The Spirit (14A) Special Engagement Thu 10:40-12-1-2:30-3:30-5-6-7:30-8:30-10-11
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Special Engagement Fri 12:15-12:45-2:40-3:10-5-5:30-7:15-7:45-9:30-10:15 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 10:30-12:15-12:45-2:40-3:10-5-5:30-7:15-7:45-9:30-10:15 Special Engagement Mon-Tue 12:15-12:45-2:40-3:10-5-5:30-7:15-7:45-9:30-10:15 Special Engagement Wed 12:15-12:45-2:40-3:10-5-5:30-7:15-7:45-9:30 Special Engagement Thu 12:15-4:50-7:15-9:30
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Wed 2:35-7:20
Twilight (PG) Fri 1-1:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-10-10:30 Sat-Sun 11-1-1:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-10-10:30 Mon-Tue 1-1:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-10-10:30 Wed 1-1:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-9:50 Thu 11-1:45-7:45-10:30
Valkyrie (PG) Special Engagement Thu 11:45-2:30-5:15-8:10-10:50
Yes Man (PG) Special Engagement Fri 1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10:10-10:40 Special Engagement Sat 10:30-11:10-11:50-1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10:10-10:40 Special Engagement Sun 10:30-11:10-11:50-1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10:10 Special Engagement Mon-Tue 1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10:10 Special Engagement Wed 1:10-1:50-2:30-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20 Special Engagement Thu 10:35-11:10-11:50-1:10-1:50-2:20-3:50-4:30-5:10-6:40-7:20-8-9:20-10:10-10:40

The bestselling albums at Amazon.ca
1. And Winter Came, Enya; **2.** A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; **3.** Sugar Mountain: Live At Canterbury House 1968, Neil Young, left; **4.** Day And Age, The Killers; **5.** Soul, Seal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

A falling out with celebrity

UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

Folie à Deux, the new album from Fall Out Boy, takes aim at celebrity excess.

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

If anyone knows a thing or two about celebrity culture it's Fall Out Boy. The Chicago-turned-L.A. pop punk band doesn't just live near Hollywood, they live the whole paparazzi eluding, party-hopping experience. So it's no surprise that their new album, Folie à Deux, is all about celebrity excess.

"This record is strongly influenced by Hollywood," says lead singer Patrick Stump. "It's about watching western culture deal with fame and how we've diluted everything to the point of just product."

Rallying against the nature of celebrity, is somewhat ironic coming from a band who counts Pete Wentz, a gossip rag favourite, as a member. The bassist has had a complicated relationship with fame. From his genitals being plastered all over the Internet to a widely publicized marriage with Ashley Simpson, he's no stranger — and in turn the rest of the band — to the Hollywood machine.

"There are two different (kinds of) people who end up in tabloids, people who are there by accident and people who are desperate to maintain popularity."
Patrick Stump

Stump's well aware that some might think it's odd for the group to take such a staunch stand against pop culture, but he doesn't think it's strange. "It's really easy to not be inside it even if you are inside of it," he explains. "There are two different (kinds of) people who end up in tabloids, people who are there by accident and people who are desperate to maintain their popularity. We've all been part of the former."

As for Wentz, Stump makes no apologies for his bassist's celebrity status. But he vehemently points out that he's no fame whore.

"It's very frustrating," he says. "He does wonderful things because of it. We've all been able to contribute to organizations we strongly believe in ... We got to do them because we're utilizing celebrity. That's the way Pete sees it, we can get something out fame. He's never been as vapid as people hope he would be."

The album's themes don't just manifest themselves in the lyrics, the music — a blend of high energy '80s rock and their familiar punk riffs — is also a response to America's obsession with celebrity. Stump explains that the '80s are back and "in the worst possible way."

"We've fallen into Wall Street excess. Cocaine is back in fashion and everyone is full of crap," he says. "That's what I wanted the album to sound like. Still, it's fun too. If you don't know what I'm talking about you can appreciate it on a purely aesthetic level."

So with Stump so turned off by his current home's insipid values, will he move back to The Windy City?

"I have never officially moved here," he quickly points out. "I haven't been back to Chicago in a year, but I still have my place there."

Cancer Bats draft plans for a southern invasion

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

PHOTO HANDOUT

Toronto hardrock outfit Cancer Bats hope to gain some U.S. exposure during the Taste Of Chaos Tour.

Cancer Bats have returned to the belfry, at least for now.

The Toronto-based purveyors of punk and metal are back in Canada after a two-and-a-half month touring schedule across Europe in support of their sophomore release Hail Destroyer, playing four gigs in Ontario and one in Montreal before jetting off again for several U.K. dates and the Rockstar Energy Drink Taste Of Chaos Tour, which will take them across the U.S.

The Bats will more than likely spend their January pooling song ideas for their next album, says frontman Liam Cormier. Life on the road doesn't afford them much time to put pen to paper.

"We're not a jammy type of band," he said. "On tour, we'll write lyrics and music on our own, and then share the ideas with the other three (guitarist Scott Middleton, drummer Mike Peters and bassist Jaye R. Schwarzer) and make sure everyone is on board with what we're going to do. It's all heavy, but that's why you hear different stuff in our songs. Scott will write more metal and I'll write more punk and hardcore stuff."

in concert ...

- Cancer Bats play The Mod Club with The Holly Springs Disaster and Polar Bear Club on Sunday night.

The band hopes to finally go over in the U.S. during the Taste Of Chaos Tour, says Cormier, who notes that gaining popularity south of the border, especially for Canadian hard rock bands, is "a tough nut to crack." But circumstances play in their favour: This year Kerrang! — a magazine widely read by U.S. metal fans — gave Hail Destroyer it's highest rating possible and nominated it for its 2008 Album Of The Year. Big audiences are expected for the tour that has showcased acts like My Chemical Romance and Silverstein, and Cormier hopes his outfit gains a similar profile.

"We've done the U.S. eight or nine times. It's hard," Cormier said. "Bands like ours, Billy Talent, Alexisonfire, we'll really gain a fan base here and in Europe. Then we'll go to the States and not get the same kind of response. But it's a big positive for us. This will be one of the biggest tours of our year and we'll play in front of some huge crowds."

Speaking of Alexisonfire — the band Cancer Bats credits with putting them on the map — Cormier would like to make clear that the spoofing of City & Colour (Dallas Green's solo project) in their videos French Immersion and Pneumonia Hawk was the brainchild of George Pettit, Green's co-vocalist.

"It was his idea!" laughs Cormier. "George was in a couple of our videos and he was like, 'We have to bust Dal again.' Dallas sees this stuff, rolls his eyes and says, 'Get off my back.'"

Taylor Swift tops charts

The top pop albums, according to Billboard Magazine: **1.** Fearless, Taylor Swift, right; **2.** Circus, Britney Spears; **3.** I AM...SASHA FIERCE, Beyoncé; **4.** Dark Horse, Nickelback; **5.** Twilight Soundtrack, Various Artists. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Music

Tuning out holiday cheer

These non-traditional songs really should get more play at Christmas

SoundCheck

Alan Cross
alan@ongoinghistory.com

If you're anything like me, you're close to ODing on Christmas music treacle. I tried to get some shopping done the other day, but after hearing Jose Felicano sing Feliz Navidad yet again, I suddenly realized that I'd rather blowtorch my own toes off than be subjected to more of the same dusty holiday music that's been making the rounds since Coca-Cola invented Santa Claus in the 1920s.

With that in mind, here's another list of decidedly non-traditional holiday songs that really should be more popular:

BOBNOXIOUS PHOTO

Bobnoxious do its best to avoid the Christmas spirit with Police Nabbed My Dad, sung to the tune of Feliz Navidad.

• **Police Nabbed My Dad/Bobnoxious:** This London, Ont., group has been sending me Christmas songs for the last couple years and I've loved 'em all. Nothing like a song about your dad being sent to jail set to the tune of the aforementioned Feliz Navidad. Get it at *bobnoxious rock.com*.

• **Joseph, Better You Than Me/Killers feat. Elton John:** When I spoke to Brandon Flowers last month about their third Christmas single, guitarist Dave Keuning was in another suite in Toronto's Pantages hotel laying down the final guitar tracks. Brandon says Joseph doesn't get the credit he should for his role in the Christmas story and this song attempts to address that. Listen for Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys to sweeten the vocals about halfway through. Proceeds to Bono's (RED) foundation. Available at iTunes.

• **Santa Claus Is Coming to Town/BWC Christmas Orchestra:** If you liked Springsteen's take on this one, you might want to stay away from the near death-metal vocals of this version. Available on: BWC Studios Presents: A Very Metal Christmas.

• **Oh Little Town of Deathleham/Killdozer:** Definitely not the kind of thing you'll want to play when grandma comes over for Christmas dinner. A bit dysfunctional, to put it mildly. Available on: Hardcore Holiday.

• **(We Wish You) A Protein Christmas/The Fall:** I have no idea what Mark E. Smith is going on about, but the mere fact that he wrote a Christmas song is staggering. Not to be mistaken for a hymn, then. Available on: NO HO HO: Alternative Indie Christmas Anthems, Volume 1.

"I'd rather blowtorch my own toes off than be subjected to more of the same dusty holiday music that's been making the rounds."

• **Christmas Is Going to the Dog/Eels:** A deceptively happy sounding song from the son of the physicist who invented the Many Worlds Theory.

• **The Cat Carole/Meryn Cadell:** Possibly the sweetest (and saddest!) of all the modern Christmas songs. I tear up just thinking about it. Truly beautiful. Available at: *catcarol.com*.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com.

Metro recommends

• **AMADOU & MARIAM, WELCOME TO MALI:** African couple deftly blends their musical roots with a myriad of modern styles for a superb new-and-original sound.

• **THE FLAMING LIPS, CHRISTMAS ON MARS:** Film score mixes ominous electronic soundscapes and fanciful strings for a healthy dose of engaging weirdness.

• **WE WISH YOU A METAL XMAS AND A HEADBANGING NEW YEAR:** Old-school rockers blast through boring holiday standards with a metal energy that's both ferocious and fun.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

New face on 90210

Matt Lanter is the next newbie to arrive on 90210's West Beverly campus. The actor will play Liam, a bad boy who's ready to rile up the hallways, People reports. IMDB.COM

Television

Animated metal heads flourish

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

BRUTAL: I can no longer give a convincing impression of someone whose world has been transformed by Jay Leno on primetime, and there's only so much I can say about Canadian Idol's yearlong "rest" without bursting into this disturbing giggle, so I thought I'd take a moment to talk about the second season of my favourite show, now on DVD just in time for Christmas.

You don't have to have grown up in a working class suburb in the '70s to love heavy metal, but it certainly helps, and as far as I can tell, metal fans generally love Metalocalypse, even though it viciously satirizes everything they hold dear. If you haven't managed to catch its brief appearances on Teletoon's adult-only Detour programming block, the premise is simple enough — Dethklok is the biggest band in the world, growing from the 13th to the seventh-largest economy in the world over the course of the show's two seasons. Try to imagine, say, that Slayer or Cannibal Corpse could cause international riots, or prompt debates at the United Nations.

The band — a mix of American and Scandinavian louts — are morons, and when they aren't endlessly debating how to do the most metal thing, they're unsuccessfully dealing with their intimacy issues, or the fact that they're lousy at doing anything that doesn't involve double-kick triplets or singing about flesh-eating zombies.

"Metalocalypse is probably the most perfect take on metal's essence – morbid and epic megalomaniac teenage-boy fantasies alongside tawdry, lower-middle-class anxieties."

Not that the world needed such a thing, but Metalocalypse is probably the most perfect take on metal's essence — morbid and epic megalomaniac teenage-boy fantasies alongside tawdry, lower-middle-class anxieties, executed with plenty of metal's graphic flourishes: skulls and swords and bat's wings, and skulls with bat's wings, and swords with skulls, and bat's wings on swords. You get the picture.

Season two follows where season one left off —with the band staggering one step closer to the Armageddon predicted in the show's title, and the shadowy conspirators of The Tribunal monitoring them for their own vague reasons. And then there's the band, with their pitiful solo projects, family problems and momentary obsessions with hallucinogenic drugs known only to Amazon tribes, which inspires a brief tribute to Werner Herzog's 1982 film Fitzcarraldo.

The show is at its best when little or nothing is going on but the sorts of digressive, numbskull conversations most men have had a few hundreds of in their lives, enlivened by a few moments of incredibly graphic violence. Basically, it's like spending a night in front of an Xbox with a bunch of boys — teenage or older — ungoverned by female influences, if only for a few precious hours.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

FRIDAY

TO		Vu	SC		C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/19/08	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Adventures in Architecture		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Heartbeat (N)		Allan Gregg	Film 101	Agenda-Paikin
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	90210 (HDTV)		Life "Trapdoor" (N)		NUMB3RS "Frienemies"		News (N)
		215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
		210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	*The Secret of the Nutcracker* (DVS)			Little Mosque	CBC News: The National		The Hour
		214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Crusoe		News (N)
		212	313	8	CTV	etalk (N)	Hollywood	Rita MacNeil's Christmas		*Eight Days to Live* (2006, Drama) Kelly Rowan. (DVS)				News (N)
		218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E News	Momma's Boys		Inside Hollywood		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)
		-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (N)		NUMB3RS "Tabu"		NUMB3RS "Frienemies"		News (N)
		-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Momma's Boys		Dateline NBC				News (N)
		-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap		A New Smile, a New Life		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		News (N)
		-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
		-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Summer Wine	*The Searchers* ★★★★ (1956, Western) John Wayne.				Fawlty Towers	Wash. Week	Business Rpt.
	news	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	sports	405	417	22	net	Skiing: Alpine		Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
		400	400	30	TSN	Junior Hockey: IIHF World Championship Pre-Competition					SportsCentre	Curling: 2008 Continental Cup		
	family	551	542	25	YTV	*Christmas With the Kranks* ★★ (2004, Comedy)				Smallville "Fracture"		Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
		554	544	45	TEL	*Gremlins* ★★★ (1984, Fantasy) Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates. Premiere.					Futurama	Father of Pride	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
		556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	*The Christmas Star* (1986, Drama)			(9:03) *'Twas the Night* (2001, Comedy)			(10:31) *Call Me Claus* (2001)	
	cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami "Game Over"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds
		575	583	38	CMT	George Canyon's Christmas		Chevy Cross Canada Countdown "Christmas" (N)				Karaoke Star "Finale"		
		616	521	39	SHO	The Best Years (DVS)		The Guard "Live Free"		Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Webdreams	Sin Cities
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*An American Werewolf in Paris* ★ (1997, Horror)				Steve Harvey	Seinfeld	Family Guy
		581	566	52	MTV	4REAL	After Show	Made "Pop Singer"		Whitney: From The Hills to The City			The Hills	After Show
		603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Chef Abroad	The Wild Chef	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ace of Cakes
		300	601	301	M1	(6:30) *Daddy Day Camp* ★		Sanctuary "Instinct"		*Stop-Loss* ★★ (2008, Drama) Ryan Phillippe.				*Fracture*

SATURDAY

TO		Vu	SC		C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/20/08	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	National Geographic		*The More the Merrier* ★★★ (1943, Comedy)				(10:10) *Christmas in Connecticut* ★★		
		211	331	3	GTV	Santa Claus Parade		Doc		Painkiller Jane		Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	News (N)
		215	343	4	OMN1	Na Luzie		Svitohliad	Objektyv	Russian Waves		Colour Me Free		MADtv
		210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Pittsburgh Penguins. (HDTV) (Live)						NHL Hockey: Blackhawks at Canucks		
		214	344	7	CITY	Survivorman (DVS)		Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		*Too Cool for Christmas* (2004, Comedy-Drama)				News (N)
		212	313	8	CTV	Conversation-Prime Minister		*Playing House* (2006, Romance-Comedy) (DVS)				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
		218	345	11	E!	E News	The Soup	Behind Scenes	Behind Scenes	Dr. 90210		Inside Hollywood		News (N)
		-	387	16	CBS	Paid Program	Paid Program	*Elf* ★★★ (2003, Comedy) Will Ferrell, Bob Newhart.				48 Hours Mystery (N)		News (N)
		-	385	17	NBC	Paid Program	The Insider (N)	Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		WWE Tribute to the Troops (N)		Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
		-	386	18	ABC	Thomas	Paid Program	I Want a Dog-Charlie Brown		*Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat* ★★ (2003, Comedy)				News
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Mozart Decoded (DVS)		*Magic Flute Diaries* (2008, Musical) Rutger Hauer. (DVS)				Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		News (N)
		-	-	28	FOX	Perfectly You	Save-$1000	Cops	Cops	America's Most Wanted		The Simpsons	The Simpsons	MADtv
		-	388	61	PBS	All Creatures Great and Small		Ballykissangel		Sherlock Holmes		Poirot		Performances
	news	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs This Week (HDTV)		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		Investigations
	sports	405	417	22	net	English Premier League Soccer Teams TBA.				The Ultimate Fighter		Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Sportsnet Con.
		400	400	30	TSN	Curling: Continental Cup		NFL Football Baltimore Ravens at Dallas Cowboys. From Texas Stadium in Irving, Texas.						Curling
	family	551	542	25	YTV	The Christmas That Almost Didn't Happen			*National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 2: Cousin Eddie*				Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.
		554	544	45	TEL	Annabelle	*A Dennis the Menace Christmas* (2007, Comedy)				Futurama	*Gremlins* ★★★ (1984, Fantasy) Zach Galligan.		
		556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*The Man Who Saved Christmas* (2002)			*Contact* ★★★ (1997)	
	cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Sopranos (HDTV)		The Sopranos
		575	583	38	CMT	Chevy Cross Canada Countdown "Christmas"				*Home Alone* ★★★ (1990, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin.				Grand Opry
		616	521	39	SHO	About a Girl	Kink in Hair	*His and Her Christmas* (2005, Comedy-Drama) Paula Devicq.				*Sin City* ★★★ (2005, Crime Drama)		
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Chronicles of Riddick* ★★ (2004, Science Fiction) Vin Diesel.					*Simone* (2002, Comedy)	
		581	566	52	MTV	MTV Live	After	Made "Pop Singer"		MTV News	After	After Show	After Show	After Show
		603	561	56	FOOD	Chef Abroad	The Wild Chef	Restaurant Makeover		Top Chef		Kitchen Nightmares		The F Word
		300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Charlotte's Web* ★★★ (2006, Drama)				*College Road Trip* ★ (2008, Comedy)			*Cloverfield* ★★★ (2008)	

SUNDAY

TO		Vu	SC		C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/21/08	primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Palin-Sahara		The Choir "Boys Don't Sing"		*Oliver Twist* (2007, Drama) Timothy Spall.			(10:25) The View From Here	
		211	331	3	GTV	Ancestors	American Dad	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	Painkiller Jane		News (N)
		215	343	4	OMN1	Without a Trace		Friends	Solo Flight		Noi Oggi	Metropia	Metropia	Vamos-Balinho
		210	302	6	CBC	Mickey-C'mas	Grinch-C'mas	*National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989, Comedy)				CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		McDermott
		214	344	7	CITY	TBA	2Half Men	According-Jim	According-Jim	According-Jim	According-Jim	Less-Kind	Less-Kind	News (N)
		212	313	8	CTV	Corner Gas	Corner Gas	The Rankin Family Reunion		*Would Be Kings* (2008, Crime Drama) (DVS)				News (N)
		218	345	11	E!	Greatest Myst.	Greatest Myst.	Extreme Makeover: Home		*His and Her Christmas* (2005, Comedy-Drama)				News (N)
		-	387	16	CBS	60 Minutes		Million Dollar Password		Cold Case "Wings" (N)		The Unit "Switchblade"		News (N)
		-	385	17	NBC	Football Night in America		(8:15) NFL Football Carolina Panthers at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
		-	386	18	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		News
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Funniest Home Videos		Million Dollar Password		Cold Case "Wings" (N)		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		News
		-	-	28	FOX	NFL Football	The OT	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Family Guy	American Dad	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
		-	388	61	PBS	Walking the Bible (DVS)								
	news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		Newsroom		D.L. Hughley
	sports	405	417	22	net	NFL Football	Sportsnet Connected		World Combat	World Combat League		World Combat League		Sportsnet Con.
		400	400	30	TSN	Football Night in America		(8:15) NFL Football Carolina Panthers at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
	family	551	542	25	YTV	(6) *Jack Frost* (1998)		SpongeBob	Mystery Hnt.	The Next Star		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
		554	544	45	TEL	Looney Tunes Christmas		Tom & Jerry: A Nutcracker Tale			Futurama	*Gremlins 2: The New Batch* (1990, Fantasy)		
		556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Jack Frost* ★★ (1998, Fantasy)			(10:41) *You've Got Mail*	
	cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Nailed"		CSI: Miami "Kill Switch"		CSI: Miami "Born to Kill"		CSI: Miami
		575	583	38	CMT	Karaoke Star				Dallas Cheerleaders		Paul Brandt's Christmas		Doc
		616	521	39	SHO	The Guard "Waheguru"		*Christmas Caper* (2007, Comedy-Drama) Shannen Doherty.				*The Island* ★★ (2005, Action)		
		294	529	47	TBS	(6) *Exit Wounds* (2001)		*Jurassic Park III* ★★ (2001, Adventure) Sam Neill.				*Jurassic Park III* ★★ (2001, Adventure)		
		581	566	52	MTV	Made "Pop Singer"		After Show	After Show	After Show	After Show	After Show	After Show	After
		603	561	56	FOOD	Challenge		Challenge		Iron Chef America		In Search of Perfection		Unwrapped
		300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Bee Movie* ★★ (2007, Comedy)				*The Invisible* ★ (2007, Suspense)			*National Treasure: Book*	

In brief

LEGAL A mistrial was avoided yesterday in the trial of a former Sopranos actor accused in the shooting death of an off-duty police officer, after it was discovered a juror had been taking notes on testimony and doing research on the case at home. Lillo Brancato was charged with second-degree murder in the December 2005 shooting death of officer Daniel Enchautegui.

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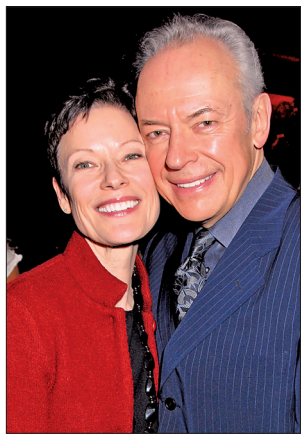

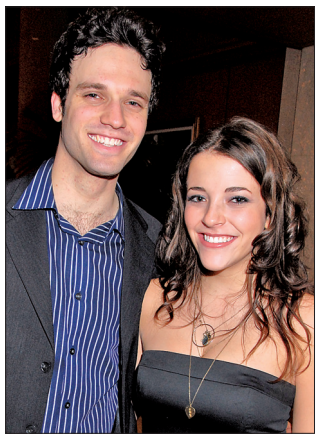

CINDERELLA ABOVE, LEFT: National Ballet of Canada artistic director Karen Kain with husband/show producer Ross Petty. **RIGHT:** Actors (Prince George) Jake Epstein and (Cinderella) Paula Brancati.

CINDERELLA: Ensemble cast Stephanie Graham and Kyle Golemba.

CINDERELLA CERTAINLY had a good reason to be at the ball after midnight as she and the cast of Cinderella: The Sillylicious Family Musical with invited guests were feted to opening night festivities at the King Edward Hotel. Don't worry, she's around until Jan. 4, at the Elgin Theatre. Guests and community leaders were also in no rush to leave as Easter Seals Ontario presented Toronto's Tribute Awards at the Four Seasons Hotel.

CINDERELLA, LEFT: Actor Patty Sullivan (plays The Fairy Godmother)

EASTER SEALS, ABOVE, LEFT: Royal Air Farce comedian/actor Alan Park. **RIGHT:** Evening host/comedian Jessica Holmes.

Easter Seals Toronto's Tribute Award honourees Royal Air Farce comedians Roger Abbott, left, and Don Ferguson.

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20th Century Fox cutting down on TV budgets

News Corp.'s 20th Century Fox Television studio has asked producers of shows such as 24 and My Name is Earl to trim their budgets this season by two per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going Out

One actor's long road to Newark

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Actor Jeff Madden, who plays the role of Frankie Valli in Jersey Boys, in costume.

How do you get from the pastoral lanes of Niagara-on-the-Lake to the mean streets of Newark?

Walk like a man, my son.

That's what Jeff Madden learned when he set out on the journey that led him to the Toronto Centre of the Arts, where he gave his first performance last week as Frankie Valli in the new Canadian company of Jersey Boys.

After eight seasons with the Shaw Festival in what he calls "an incredibly creative and nurturing environment," the 34-year-old actor decided to strike out in new directions.

He soon found he had become a valuable commodity in the world of Canadian theatre. His dance card was full through the summer of 2009. He got a job as the leading man in the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Ben Elton musical The Boys in the Photograph, premiering in Winnipeg at the Manitoba Theatre Centre next spring.

But just as he was settling in and planning to enjoy a few tranquil months with his wife of six years, Christine, and their two daughters, Sydney Murray, 2, and Emily Rose, 9 months, he got a call from the casting people involved with Jersey Boys.

At first, they were talking to him about taking on a role in the national tour. Then it became obvious that enthusiastic audiences were demanding Dancap Productions keep the show on past its originally scheduled Dec. 6 closing date, and the search began for a resident Canadian company.

When Madden was finally offered the plum starring role, he had decidedly conflicted emotions about having to turn away from all the other shows he had committed to.

"It was a tough decision," he concludes. "But in the end, I think I made the right one."

In fact, a lot of Madden's life and career has been about taking a while to settle on the right choice. As a kid, his family moved from Surrey, B.C., to Montreal to Newmarket, Ont., to Dartmouth, N.S., before settling in Etobicoke when he was 15.

He was a musician and a jock as a kid, not an actor.

"I played the piano at seven and the trumpet at 10, and I was in all sorts of choirs ... But acting? Never, not once."
Jeff Madden

"I played the piano at seven and the trumpet at 10, and I was in all sorts of choirs," he recalls. "I also went in for baseball, the canoe club and swimming. But acting? Never, not once."

That started changing in high school, when he had a wonderfully ego-driven moment watching a student production of Grease.

"I was sitting there, and I went, 'Wait a second. Why am I not doing this? I could be way better than this guy,'" he says, laughing.

During his last year at university, he decided the theatre "was maybe something I could do for a living." He started taking acting classes and researching the industry.

Now he has a job that every young musical theatre actor in Toronto would kill to have.

So what's it like to play the legendary Valli, the kid from Sopranos country who became one of the biggest stars in pop music history?

"It's a bit of a struggle to get into the whole head space of how he grew up," admits Madden, who cites some points of connection with Valli.

"I had three older brothers," he chuckles. "So I know what it's like to be bossed around the way Tommy DeVito bosses Frankie. (Valli) was also a fighter and I'm a fighter, too."

Jersey Boys runs through Feb. 1.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Left to right, Jersey Boys stars Michael Lomenda, Derek Krantz, Jeff Madden and Jeremy Kushiwer.

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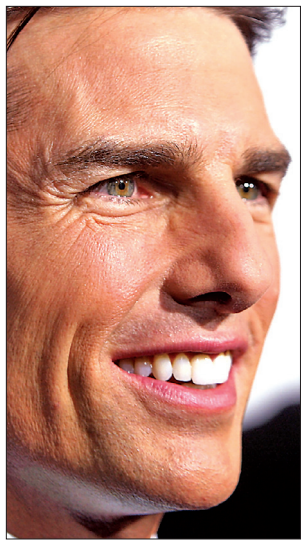
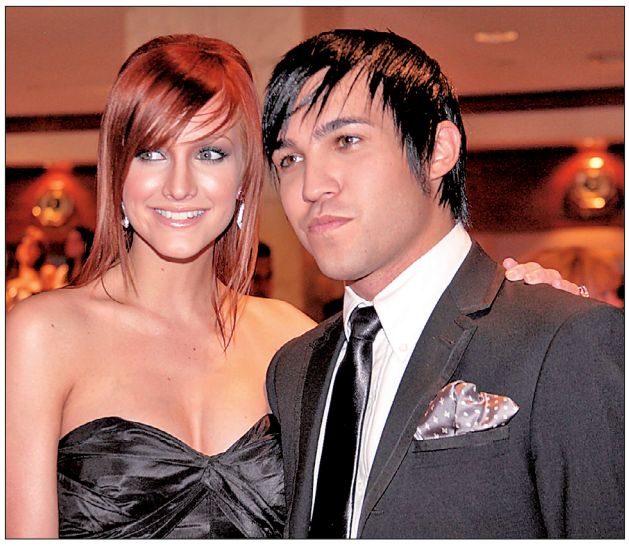
Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now



1 Cruising around

Actor Tom Cruise is back in the spotlight again, this time plugging his Second World War thriller Valkyrie, which hits theatres Christmas Day.



2 Oh, baby

Bronx Mowgli, the name of singer Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz's son, has been crowned the worst celebrity baby name of 2008. About 5,000 visitors to BabyNames.com voted the moniker the most disliked male baby name of 2008. Jagger Joseph Blue — the daughter of actress Soleil Moon Frye and Jason Goldberg — was deemed the worst girl's name.

3 Back at the top

Harry Potter series author J.K. Rowling is back on top with The Tales of Beedle the Bard, currently the No. 1 bestseller on Amazon.ca.

4 Awards season

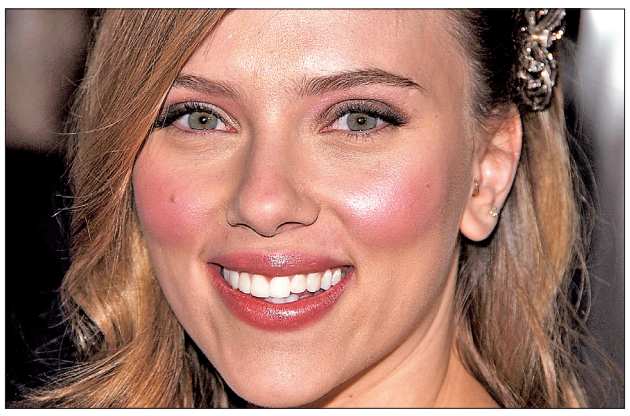
Movie awards season is well underway, with Golden Globe nominees recently announced, and several film critics' associations having named their top films of the year. Oscar nominations will be announced Jan. 22.

5 Geek chic

Large glasses, long socks and checked shirts have been spotted on the likes of pop star Madonna and Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz, heralding a fashion trend to take fashionistas by storm next year, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

6 Another celebrity designer?

Katy Perry may start a fashion line, E! News Online reports. The singer says she's always experimented with clothes and cites model Agyness Deyn and burlesque star Dita Von Teese as her fashion icons.



7 Scarlett exposure

Actress Scarlett Johansson has been all over the place lately, first co-hosting the Nobel Peace Concert on Dec. 11, then slamming Cosmopolitan U.K. magazine for printing an interview with her she says she never gave, and now comes news she's thinking about putting out another album.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

JOE BOXER®

Waiting for baby

In the new issue of Us Weekly — out Friday — Gossip Girl's Kelly Rutherford says she's preparing for the summer arrival of her second child with hubby Daniel Giersch. **USWEEKLY.COM**

Going Out

Mix of Six

HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY
For more great events around the city, visit: **metronews.ca/entertainment**

Allah made me funny

When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front St. E.

Laugh and learn about the humorous truth in Muslim culture with this Canadian premiere movie screening. Followed by live performances, hear about the lives and predicaments of three Muslim comedians. Price: $30-$35 at 416-366-7723.

black ice and NEXXICE

When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: Harbour Front Centre's Outdoor Rink, 235 Queens Quay W.

Watch two of Canada's synchronized skating teams perform double axels and triple salchows before your eyes. Grab a cup of hot cocoa and stand rink side while seeing the show unfold.

Justin Nozuka

When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Phoenix, 410 Sherbourne St.

Let Nozuka's sultry, soothing tones wash over you at this all-ages show. The man described as having the guts of Ray LaMontagne and the soul of Lauryn Hill, will take you away Friday night. Tickets: $20. For more information, call 416-870-8000.

Saturday Night Swing

When: Dec. 20, lessons at 7 p.m., dance at 9 p.m.
Where: Dovercourt House, 805 Dovercourt Rd.

Listen to those jazz beats and dance the night away to the Richard Underhill Swing Quartet. Lessons in the Charleston and Lindy Hop styles of swing are available for the inexperienced. Price: $13-$18.

Dream Machines — The Emetts

When: Dec. 19
Where : Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd.

Explore whimsical mechanical inventions by Rowland Emett, including the Toot Sweet machine in the film of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Learn about the Forget Me Not Computer and the Featherstone Kite. Free with admission.

The Unconquered Sun

When: Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Amos Waites Park, 2445 Lakeshore Blvd.

Take an evening out to celebrate Winter Solstice with the Theatre of Change's third annual outdoor performance. Drawn from cultures around the world, bring in the holiday spirit while watching puppets, angels and more.

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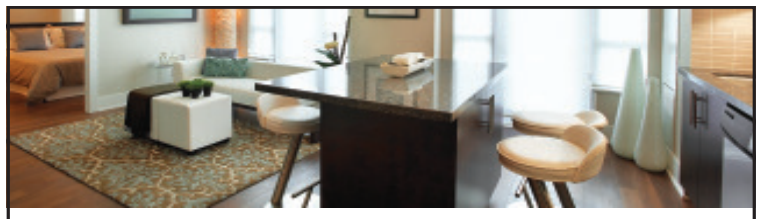

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New Year's Eve at the Drake
The Drake Hotel is charging $75 per person for a three-course meal and $150 for a five-course meal. An admission price of $75 guarantees access to a sushi station, pasta hors d'oeuvres and the hotel's Underground Lounge. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Out

Tough times aren't stopping New Year's Eve festivities

Economic worries be damned. Torontonians are still ready to invest in a happy new year.

A sampling of the clubs, restaurants and nightspots offering celebrations to ring in 2009 suggests people are still ready to go out to don party hats and sip bubbly to ring in the midnight hour. But good luck finding a bargain.

At the high end, you can count down to 2009 in the Royal Ontario Museum's crystal — for $125. That pays for party favours, hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast.

"We're excited. We've already sold 1,000 tickets," said Mark Holland of Kleen Media, host of the Crystal 09 event. He noted only 1,800 tickets will be sold.

Erin Pierce of Second City said the comedy emporium's annual show is selling well two weeks before Dec. 31.

"We're actually probably half-sold for New Year's Eve," Pierce said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Piven quits Broadway after doctors' diagnosis
Leading man Jeremy Piven has suddenly split from the critical and commercial hit Broadway revival of David Mamet's Speed-the-Plow, citing doctors' diagnosis that he's suffering a high mercury count, Variety reports. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Inauguration tops Scarlett's wish list

PEOPLE Scarlett Johansson stopped by The Tonight Show with Jay Leno this week and told Jay what she's asking Santa for this Christmas.

The 24-year-old actress, who is an outspoken Barack Obama supporter, expressed her desire to attend the Inaugural Ball, femalefirst.com reports. "From Santa I would like a ticket to the Inaugural Ball," she says. "That's what I want Santa."

MSN.COM

'No need for money': Emma

PEOPLE Emma Watson has "no need for money in her life," femalefirst.co.uk is reporting. The Harry Potter actress — estimated to be worth £13 million ($23 million) — says, "The wealth side of it hasn't hit me yet because I have no need for money in my life. My life will not be motivated by money."

The 18-year-old also insists she has not adopted a lavish lifestyle, and still uses public transport.

"People are like, 'That girl looks like the girl from Harry Potter, but it can't be her on the train.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie and Pitt say no to TV

PARENTING When the holiday season rolls around, Brad Pitt says he and Angelina Jolie aren't big spenders for their brood of six, preferring making crafts to giving pricey presents, people.com reports.

With their luxe lifestyle, how do the youngsters avoid craving tons of holiday loot? By nixing TV.

"The kids don't ask for the big gifts for the reason that they don't see a lot of the American cartoon television, which is packed with all those manipulative commercials for big toys that look so fantastic," says papa Pitt.

"When they do see that stuff is when they start asking for the toys, so we figure if they don't see them, they won't know they're there. So we have gifts, but we try to keep the money spent to a minimum."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Whitney's stepmom sues over dad's cash

LEGAL Whitney Houston is being sued by her stepmother for allegedly ignoring the wishes of her late father, femalefirst.co.uk is reporting.

In the lawsuit filed in a federal court in Newark, the 45-year-old singer is accused of improperly keeping the proceeds of her dad John Houston's $1-million insurance policy.

Whitney's stepmother Barbara Houston claims the money was meant to pay off the $723,000 mortgage on John's Fort Lee condominium, in New Jersey, where she still lives.

Whitney holds the mortgage on the property. John died from cardiac arrest in 2003, aged 82.

Barbara also claims her late husband wanted the remaining insurance money to go to her.

Lawyers for Whitney and her stepmother declined to comment on the lawsuit.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jodie's relapse led to custody woes?

PEOPLE A judge made a temporary ruling Wednesday that Jodie Sweetin's custody over eight-month-old daughter Zoie must only be in Sweetin's parents' home (where she currently lives) or in her parents' presence, people.com is reporting.

The judge made his ruling after Sweetin recently underwent an emergency investigation by an Orange County, Calif., family court for allegations of substance abuse raised by her estranged husband.

Her estranged husband, Cody Herpin, tells People that his "main concern" is to "keep Jodie clean and safe."

Herpin's lawyer, Robert Benavente, tells People the reason for the investigation of Sweetin is "primarily alcohol [abuse] but there's also concern regarding methamphetamines."

"Jodie absolutely has not relapsed into using meth," Sweetin's lawyer Wilma Presley tells People. "She merely confessed to having several glasses of wine over dinner recently and felt guilty about that. She is currently in a 12-step program and is working hard on her sobriety."

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Depp ready to marry longtime partner?

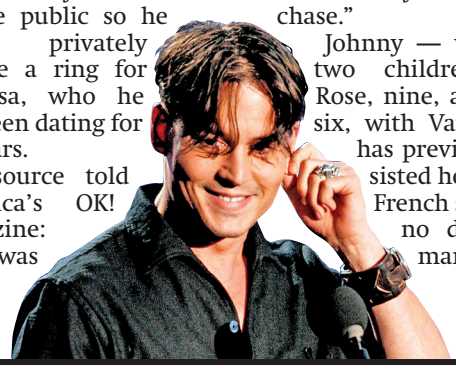
RELATIONSHIP Johnny Depp has reportedly bought an engagement ring for partner Vanessa Paradis, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 45-year-old actor asked a high-end California jewellery store to close to the public so he could privately choose a ring for Vanessa, who he has been dating for 10 years.

A source told America's OK! magazine: "This was Johnny's third or fourth visit to the store.

"He looked at an assortment of classic solitaire diamond rings in platinum settings — a really beautiful selection of elegant and understated rings and made a very large purchase."

Johnny — who has two children, Lily Rose, nine, and Jack, six, with Vanessa — has previously insisted he and the French star have no desire to marry.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

No more kids, Smith insists

CHILDREN Will Smith doesn't want any more kids, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 40-year-old actor and his wife Jada Pinkett Smith — who raise three children together — are instead looking forward to becoming grandparents.

Will said: "Jada and I sat down and asked, 'Where do we see ourselves (in 40 years)?' ... We don't have more children — we have grandchildren."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Moss making sexy lingerie

CAREER Kate Moss is set to design and model a range of sexy lingerie, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The British beauty has extended her contract with U.K. high street fashion chain Topshop for another three years and can't wait to start work on the new lines — which also includes a range of shoes — due in March.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taylor talks after tooth surgery

PEOPLE It takes more than having her wisdom teeth removed to keep down Taylor Swift, people.com reports.

The singer has been blogging through the pain, keeping fans posted on her recovery. And the pain? "I'm feeling it," she wrote.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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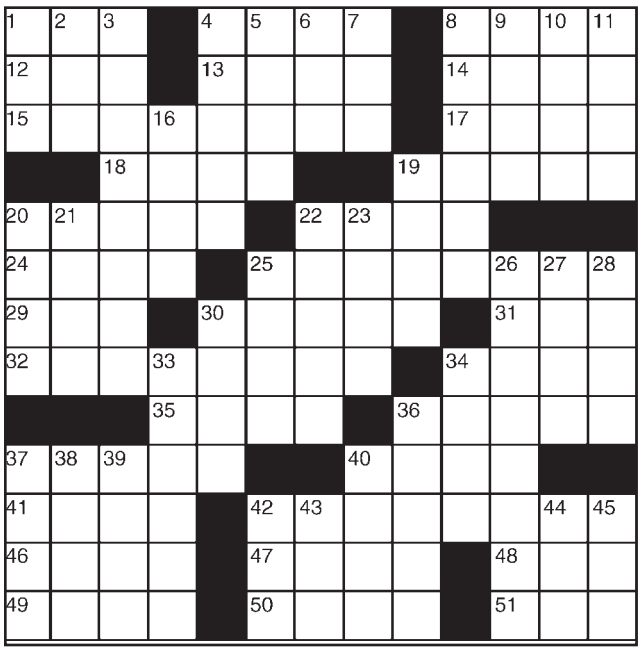

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

3		4	2				6	
				7				
				5	3			1
7		5			8	1		
1		2				9		6
		3	5			4		8
9			7	8				
				9				
	2				6	5		3

Crossword across

1 Spasm
4 Greenish-blue
8 — Bader Ginsburg
12 Historic time
13 Mandlikova of tennis
14 Birthright barterer
15 Gilligan, notably
17 Immediately upcoming
18 Veer
19 Bullwinkle's foe
20 Emulate da Vinci
22 Sketch
24 Shrek is one
25 Us
29 25-Across, e.g.
30 Corridors
31 Lubricant
32 Courtroom punishment
34 They give a hoot
35 Forest trek
36 Breathlessness?
37 Bottom point
40 Detail, for short
41 Out of the storm
42 Unable to show versatility
46 Czech or Pole
47 Session with a shrink
48 Vast expanse
49 Stevenson villain
50 Make — meet
51 X rating?

Crossword down

1 Sleuth, for short
2 A Gershwin brother
3 Rigid
4 Graph
5 Exhibit ennui
6 Literary collection
7 Aye undoer
8 Fame
9 Addict
10 Urban transport
11 Shacks
16 Melody
19 Ovine vocabulary
20 Spacecraft compartments
21 Chills and fever
22 "La — Vita"
23 Legislation
25 Tug hard
26 Sad
27 Marathon fraction
28 "Born Free" lioness
30 Estate recipient
33 Rob
34 Mostly Mideastern cartel
36 Mimics
37 Doggerelist Ogden
38 Partner in crime
39 Out of play
40 Tater
42 Commonest English word
43 Thither
44 Witness
45 Erstwhile M&M's hue

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

B	L	A	B	■	B	E	D	■	K	E	P	I		
L	A	V	A	■	E	A	R	■	O	X	E	N		
O	M	I	T	■	R	U	E	■	S	T	A	N		
C	A	V	I	T	Y	■	S	C	A	R	■	■		
■	■	■	S	I	L	K	S	C	R	E	E	N		
S	M	O	T	E	■	L	E	D	■	M	A	O		
H	A	V	E	■	D	I	D	■	J	E	T	S		
E	S	E	■	H	E	M	■	P	U	S	S	Y		
S	C	R	E	E	N	T	E	S	T	■	■	■		
■	■	T	A	R	T	■	M	I	L	D	E	W		
T	H	I	S	■	I	M	P	■	A	R	I	A		
S	O	M	E	■	S	A	T	■	N	A	R	Y		
P	E	E	L	■	T	R	Y	■	D	Y	E	S		

8	7	1	4	2	5	6	3	9
2	3	5	1	6	9	8	7	4
9	4	6	7	8	3	1	5	2
4	1	3	8	9	2	5	6	7
6	2	7	5	3	4	9	1	8
5	9	8	6	7	1	2	4	3
3	8	4	9	5	6	7	2	1
7	5	2	3	1	8	4	9	6
1	6	9	2	4	7	3	8	5

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25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Halibut Steaks with Tomato and Bell Pepper Salsa

INGREDIENTS:

4 halibut steaks, about 5 ounces each
4 tbsp (60 mL) extra-virgin olive oil
Fresh juice of 1 small orange
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 orange, cut into wedges, to garnish

Tomato and Bell Pepper Salsa
2 medium plum tomatoes, seeded and diced
1/2 red bell pepper, seeded and diced
1/2 red onion, finely chopped
Fresh juice of 1 small orange
1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped fresh basil
1 tbsp (15 mL) balsamic vinegar
1 tsp (5 mL) sugar
Salt and fresh-ground pepper

METHOD:

1. Place halibut steaks in shallow glass bowl. Mix together oil, orange juice, garlic, salt and pepper to taste, and spoon over fish steaks; set aside.
2. For salsa, put tomatoes, bell pepper, red onion, orange juice, basil, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper to taste in medium bowl and stir. Spoon into serving bowl and chill until needed.
3. Heat lightly-oiled, ridged cast-iron grill pan or skillet over high heat. Place fish steaks on grill pan or in skillet and fry, basting from time to time with oil mixture, until fish just flakes easily, 2 to 3 minutes on each side
4. Place fish steaks on warm serving plates and grind black pepper over. Garnish with orange wedges and serve with salsa.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A trustworthy person has remarkable news. A disturbance can produce a warning. You'll want to escape from a weird dilemma.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Reorganize a sluggish system right away. A threat will jog somebody's memory. You can get ahead by leaving a sad place.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
An amiable manner influences a realist. Don't count your blessings in public. You shouldn't push optimism to a cynical person.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A prosperous guy needs medical attention. Shabbiness will not be acceptable to a lady. Don't be a fool when crossing a street.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Check your documents carefully. A magnificent man takes the other side in a conflict. Difficulties arise when you are too aggressive.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Time passes slowly while awaiting a disclosure. A decent man gives a warning about unreliability. An alarmist rouses the neighbourhood.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A disagreement about benefits will lead to teasing. A friend will happily agree to make changes. A separation leads to a breakthrough.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Show your support when a relationship begins. An eccentric person is making a big mistake. A friend causes a hullabaloo.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Some people will be switching partners. By not worrying, you can correct a problem. Yield to the facts, no matter what happens.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A lenient person will be receptive. A disturbing tempest threatens to interfere with funds. It's wiser not to complain about hostility.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Never smirk when someone is discussing their ego. Some mighty odd events will make you flinch. Don't defend your spending with a whiner.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
An ill friend will discuss his personal agony. Your lack of concern is the point of a story. Keep your side of a bargain.

WORDY GURDY® BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Writer Edgar Allan's troubles (1)
2. Use paste to fix a pump or mule (1)
3. Ebony-colored ship chimney (1)
4. Private teacher for a wooer (2)
5. Imitate a trick that attracts business (2)
6. Ballet performing in Michigan's capital (2)
7. Weight-raising bodybuilder's brandy glasses (2)

ANSWERS
1. POES WOES 2. GLUE SHOE 3. BLACK STACK 4. SUITOR TUTOR 5. MIMIC GIMMICK 6. LANSING DANCING 7. LIFTERS SNIFTERS

12-19-08

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HOURS: MON–SAT 10AM–6PM SUNDAY 12PM–6PM
HWY 7
HWY #404
JOHN St.
DENISON St.
STEELCASE Rd. W
WOODBINE Ave.
STEELES Ave. E
T & L INTERNATIONAL TRADING INC.
UNIT 125, 2600 JOHN STREET. MARKHAM, L3R
TEL: 905 415 8888 FAX: 905 415 8833

Sears

BOXING DAY PRICES ON NOW

Saturday & Sunday

20% OFF All reg.-priced fragrances

when you spend $50 or more**

**Before taxes.
Valid in Sears Department Stores only.

40% OFF

Women's selected Fall & Holiday Nygard, Attitude®/MD, Concept®, Kasper®, Axcess, "Tan Jay"®, Alia, Haggar®, Alfred Dunner® & Tabi® collections

Saturday All Day!

50% OFF *All men's reg.-priced dress shirts & ties

Saturday 7- 11 a.m.

50% OFF *All women's & kids' reg.-priced slippers

50% OFF *All Women's reg.-priced sweaters

Saturday 2 - 4 p.m.

50% OFF *All women's & men's reg.-priced Point Zero® fashions

Levi's®

Saturday All Day!

36.99

All men's Levi's® jeans reg.-priced at 69.99 & 74.99

Choose from 501®, 505®, 528, 516®, 550, 569® & 640

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION NIGHT

50% OFF *All men's reg.-priced underwear & socks

Saturday 4 p.m.-closing

65% OFF *All women's & men's reg.-priced gold jewellery

WIN A $20 BUTTERBALL‡ TURKEY GIFT CERTIFICATE

Details in store.

‡Registered trademark of Swift Eckrich Inc., Parrish & Heimbecker Licensee.

*These savings offers exclude items with prices ending in .97 and .88, Special Purchases, Lands' End, Jockey®, Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger® brands, Alia & "Tan Jay" sweaters, '2 for' & '3 for' offers and currently advertised items.

All offers valid Saturday, December 20, 2008, unless otherwise stated

$10 Super Bucks

for the first 200 customers

Not valid for Timed Specials, clearance-priced items and Special Purchases

Sat., Dec. 20, the first 200 customers in store through the mall doors (adjacent to cosmetics) will receive a $10 Super Bucks Certificate valid on date of issue on merchandise purchases of $50 or more before taxes. The first 50 customers in store at Sears Home, Sears Décor and Sears Appliance & Mattress Stores will also receive the certificate. See certificate for details & exclusions. One per customer. Excludes Liquidation/Outlet stores.

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BEAUTY *at the Bay*

YOUR **FREE GIFT**

TRAVEL SIZE ROLLER BALL SET

Even more Irrésistible...
A taste of glam, a touch of sexiness but yet still natural... Absolutely Irrésistible Givenchy. A feminine seductive star; for the woman who is more irresistible than ever! Receive this exclusive travel size roller ball set with the purchase of any large size spray from the Givenchy women's collection.*

* While quantities last. Limit of one per client. This offer in not valid with the purchase of gift sets.